PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Madam, may I associate myself with it?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The whole House is associating itself with it, including the Chair which mostly dissociates itself with most of the things. I really feel very proud and happy. Bisiji, come back to the Chair so that I can go to my meeting.

ध्यानी जी, आप ध्यान से अपनी तकरीर शुरू कर दीजिए।

[The Vice-Chairman, (Shri Sanatan Bisi) in the Chair]

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have a point of clarification. When I was speaking on the working of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the C.C. T.V. monitor mentioned my name, my State and my party as Janata Dal. I belong to the Congress. I want to clarify so that the Chairman should not disqualify me. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, my colleagues told me about it. I am raising it so that the Chairman should not disqualify me under the Anti-Defection Act.

DISCUSSION ON WORKING OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS —(CONTD).

श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपनी बात जब शुरू ही कर रहा था तो डा० जोशी जी का विषय आ गया। मैं वनों की कमी के बारे में बतला रहा था और मैंने उल्लेख किया था कि विगत दस वर्षों में 1930 वर्ग किलोमीटर वन कम हो गए हैं। भारत में वनों का स्थान संसार की तुलना में बारहवें स्थान पर है। लेकिन भारत की सकल भूमि संसार की तुलना में लगभग दो प्रतिशत है और वनों का हिस्सा संसार की तुलना में एक प्रतिशत का है और अगर हम चरागाह को भी शामिल कर लें तो यह प्रतिशत डेढ़ प्रतिशत हो जाता है।

लेकिन भारत की जनसंख्या की तुलना में लगभग 16 प्रतिशत है और इसी के साथ हमारे पशुओं की संख्या बहुत अधिक है जो इसी संख्या के आसपास है, लगभग 15 प्रतिशत है। हमारे जनसंख्या का बड़ा भाग ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में रहता है जिसके कारण वन और वानिकी पर अभी भी उसका दवाब बना हुआ है। लगभग 70 से 75 परसेंट की जो ग्रामीण जनसंख्या है, वह किसी न किसी प्रकार वनों पर निर्भर करती है। हमारे अपने भूभाग का लगभग 20 प्रतिशत, अभी वहां से सामने से 19 प्रतिशत बताया गया है और आपकी जो रिपोर्ट है उसमें 19.27 है लेकिन जो वर्गीकरण किया गया है, जो चार्ट है, उसमें वह 20 से थोड़ी अधिक बैठती है। लेकिन यह साफ है कि वह 20 भी नहीं है और 19 भी नहीं है। कुल सघन वन तो केवल 11 प्रतिशत के आसपास हैं। संयोग से मैं जिस क्षेत्र से आता हूं वह पूरी तरह से ऐसा क्षेत्र है जहां उत्तर प्रदेश जैसे विशाल प्रदेश का 75 प्रतिशत जो वन का भाग है, वह उस क्षेत्र में आता है। अभी फर्नांडिस जी बता रहे थे, गोवा के रहने वाले हैं। गोवा में चौड़ी पत्ती के वन हैं लेकिन उनका उपयोग कैसा है? मैं गोवा गया था मैंने देखा है उस तरफ के वनों में और हमारे वनों में फर्क है। हमारे वन दोनों प्रकार के वन हैं, बारीक पत्ती और चौड़ी पत्ती, दोनों प्रकार के वन है और हमारे वनों में जो बड़ा भारी अंतर है जिसको मैं यहां इस सदन के सामने और आपके माध्यम से इस मंत्रालय के माननीय मंत्री और अधिकारियों को बताना चाहूंगा और शायद जिस पर कभी विचार नहीं हुआ होगा। यहां आप बिहार की बात करेंगे, मध्य प्रदेश की बात करेंगे तो आप कह देंगे कि वहां वनों में आदिवासी जातियां रहती हैं और जब हम आदिवासी जाति कहते हैं तो स्वाभाविक है कि जो बाकी का समाज है, उनसे एक ऐसे विपन्न, ऐसे अनजान, ऐसे भूले-बिसरे लोग जिनको पिछले काल में हमने वानर कह दिया, ऐसे लोगों की हम कल्पना करते हैं लेकिन इसके विपरीत उत्तर प्रदेश के जिस क्षेत्र का मैं रहने वाला हूं, वह भारत के जीवन-मूल्यों का प्रतीक है और वहां के गांव आदिवासी गांव नहीं हैं। गांवों की जो संख्या है वह लगभग 15,166 है। उत्तर प्रदेश में जो हमारे सचिवालय में बैठने वाले अधिकारी होते हैं, और बाकी हमारे समाज में जो अग्रणी होते हैं, उनकी कल्पना वहां के बारे में कैसी है? मैंने एक बार वन मंत्रालय की परामर्शदात्री समिति में इस बात का उल्लेख किया था। उनकी कल्पना इतनी है कि वहां बद्रीनाथ, केदारनाथ, गंगोत्री, यमुनोत्री हैं, बहुत पवित्र स्थल हैं और वहां से गंगा और यमुना निकलती हैं। इतनी भर उनकी कल्पना है लेकिन वहां एक बड़ा समुदाय रहता है, 70 लाख लोग रहते है, 15,166 गांव हैं, इसकी उन्हें कल्पना नहीं है लेकिन आदिवासियों के बारे में जिस प्रकार से विचार होता है, उनके बारे में विचार करते समय आपको भिन्न प्रकार का विचार करना पड़ता है क्योंकि जो आदिवासी है, वह पत्ती तोड़ कर, लकड़ी लाकर, बेच कर लगभग इसी प्रकार

की वन्य आधारित व्यवस्थाओं से अपना गुजारा करते हैं। लेकिन हमारे यहां का जो जीवन है, वह इससे भिन्न है और मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि 1865 से पहले जब तक सरकारी वन व्यवस्था नहीं आई थी, तब तक हमारे सारे वन ग्राम पंचायतों के थे और वह व्यवस्था पांच हज़ार वर्ष पहले से चली आ रही थी। 1865 में सरकारी वन व्यवस्था आ गई, उसके बाद 1878 में आई, उसके बाद 1987 में आई और वह गांव से वन छीनती रही। जब तक गांव के वन थे, गांव में यह व्यवस्था थी कि सरसरा पेड़, सीधा पेड़ नहीं काटना। अपनी आवश्यकता से ज्यादा संचय नहीं करना, तृण काष्ट का संचय भी अपनी आवश्यकता से ज्यादा नहीं करना लेकिन जब सरकारी व्यवस्था बीच में आयी तो उसके साथ स्वार्थी लोग जुड़ने लगे। सम्पन्नता का भाव आने लगा। वन और वानिकी से कमाई करने की व्यवस्था आने लगी और परिणाम यह था कि वनों का क्षरण होने लगा। जिसका उल्लेख मैंने किया था। यह जो आपका वन कानून-1980 आया है और जिसे वन कानून-1988 करके आपने एक राष्ट्रीय वन नीति बनायी है — आप दिल्ली में बैठकर, मुम्बई में बैठकर आदर्श बातें कर सकते हैं, बड़ी-बड़ी पर्यावरण की बातें कर सकते हैं, ओज़ोन की बात करते हैं लेकिन जो मन्द, सुगंध, शीतल पवन है उसका आनन्द ऐसा है, आप उसकी कल्पना नहीं कर सकते, उसी को ओज़ोन कहते हैं जो सुगंधित वायु होती है। आप खाली ओज़ोन कह देते हैं, बात हो गयी, लेकिन आपका कभी ओज़ोन से पाला नहीं पड़ा है। मैं जिस क्षेत्र में रहता हूं, वहां का प्रत्येक व्यक्ति उसी मंद पवन में जीता है, रमता है लेकिन मैं कहता हूं कि आज जो कठिन स्थिति है, उस सबके बारे में विचार नहीं होता है, आज क्या स्थिति बन गयी है? आपका वन कानून-1980 और 1988 का है। इसके बारे में वहां का जीवन अशांत हो गया है। वहां के जीवन का विचार नहीं किया गया है। कानून की आड़ में कानून का दुरुपयोग होता है। मैं कहता हूं कि कानून कोई बुरा भी नहीं है, यह भी कानून बुरा नहीं है। वनों को विनाश से बचाना चाहिए, वनों का विकास होना चाहिए। मैं एक उदाहरण देता हूं उस क्षेत्र में एक बड़ा विशाल बांध बन रहा है - "टिहरी बांध"। कई बार लोग उसका विरोध करते हैं। मैं उसका उस तरह से विरोध नहीं करता हूं। वह समाज के लिए बन रहा है। पहाड़ में बनेगा, मैदान के काम आएगा। मैं उसको अच्छा मानता हूं। लेकिन दूसरी बात कहता हूं कि टिहरी में जो क्षेत्र डूब में आने वाला था, वहां से वन काटे गये और वन कहां लगाए गये? झांसी में लगाए गये। यह कैसा आपका वन विभाग काम कर रहा है? यानी पहाड़ में आप वन काटेंगे और लगाएंगे झांसी में। झांसी में पेड़ नहीं उगते हैं। झांसी की धरती ऐसी रूखी है कि उसमें पेड़ उगते नहीं हैं। यह आपके विचारों का, बड़ी-बड़ी पोथियों का, निष्कर्षों का - परिणाम है अभी देहरादून का उल्लेख कर हमारे शिरोडकर जी कह रहे थे। क्या देहरादून ने आपको यही राय दी? वह जो शीर्ष संस्थान विश्व स्तर का है, उसकी राय का क्या यही परिणाम है कि वहां से वनों के लिए पैसा आए और उसको आप कहीं और खर्च कर दें। दूसरी बात मैं आपको बताता हूं कि उत्तर प्रदेश का जो उत्तरांचल भाग है, मैं भी कह रहा था कि वहां 83 परसेंट-वनभूमि हैं। मैं भी पिछले दिनों वन एवं पर्यावरण की समिति में अंडमान-निकोबार गया था लेकिन वहां तो आबादी नहीं है, छोटे-छोटे द्वीप हैं, पानी के बीच में जंगल है, और यहां 12 परसेंट पर केवल खेती होती है। तीन परसेंट बाकी के उपयोग में आता है। 15 परसेंट — एक-आध परसेंट को छोड़ दें तो 83 परसेंट या तो सघन वन है - जो आपके 11 परसेट की तुलना में बहुत ज्यादा है - या फिर कृषि अयोग्य बंजर भूमि है, बेकार भूमि है। लेकिन उस क्षेत्र का विचार नहीं होता है और यहां तक विचार नहीं होता है कि हमारी नदियों से रेत बहकर आती है। एक अनुमान के अनुसार पांच लाख मीट्रिक टन वहां से हर साल रेत और बजरी बहकर आती है और जब उसके तराई में ठेके होते हैं तो वह 20-20 करोड़ के होते हैं। उन ठेकों को कौन लेता है, यह उल्लेख का विषय नहीं है, सब जानते हैं। लेकिन वहां के लिए क्या व्यवस्था की गयी? वहां का आदमी तराई में आकर, 300 मील आकर, महंगी रेत खरीदकर 300 मील ले जाएगा। वहां यह व्यवस्था थी कि लोग अपनी आवश्यकता का नदी से चुगान करते थे। चुगान और खदान दो अलग चीजें हैं। खदान पर रोक हो तो ठीक हो सकता है। लेकिन मैं कहता हूं कि खदान का भी विचार होना चाहिए। संसार का सबसे बढ़िया लाइम स्टोन, संसार का सबसे बढ़िया सॉफ्ट स्टोन बड़ी मात्रा में इस क्षेत्र में है जो 200 वर्ष तक खर्च नहीं हो सकता है हमारे क्षेत्र में है। आपने उसका विचार नहीं किया है। राजस्थान का आपने विचार किया है। वहां खदान हो रहा है, आपने अरूणाचल का विचार किया, आपने नागालैंड का विचार किया। लोगों ने अपनी बात रखी। क्योंकि हम उत्तर प्रदेश के भाग थे, उत्तर प्रदेश विशाल प्रदेश था - मैं उनकी कोई दुर्भावना नही मानता, उनको उस क्षेत्र की जानकारी नहीं थी, लोग आते-जाते नहीं है, उनको जानकारी नहीं थी इसलिए हमारा विचार नहीं हुआ और हमारे बारे में कोई छूट नहीं दी गयी है। इसी का कारण है कि जब लोगों ने कोर्ट में अपील की, जनता ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में अपील की तो सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने एक

दिशा-निर्देश दिया कि वहां के लोगों की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए। वहां के लोगों का वनों के साथ घनिष्ठ संबंध है इस कारण से उनका वनों पर हक है इसलिए उनके बारे में विचार किया जाना चाहिए। मैं यह आग्रह करूंगा इस सरकार से कि वह इस दृष्टि से विचार करे। अभी तक उस पर विचार नहीं हुआ है और सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने यह निर्देश दिया कि वहां कुछ राहत दी जाये। आपकी एक वन निगम एजेंन्सी है। आपने वन निगम इसलिए बनाया कि वह ठीक से व्यवसाय करेगा, जंगल का जो माल आएगा वह सरकारी एजेंसी के हाथ में आएगा और वह जनता को बेचेगा। भ्रष्टाचार तो सारे देश में व्याप्त है क्योंकि जो सुख-सुविधाभोगी लोग हैं, इनकी सुख-सुविधाएं भ्रष्टाचार से ही आती हैं, विलसिता का सारा सामान भ्रष्टाचार से ही उपलब्ध होता है। इसलिए वह किसी एक का विषय नहीं है वह केवल अधिकारी होंगे या दूसरे होंगे, लेकिन मैं कह सकता हूं कि वन निगम में भ्रष्टाचार भारी मात्रा में व्याप्त है। इसका एक उदाहरण है। उन्हें कहा गया है कि सारे जंगलों की जो गिरी हुई लकड़ी है, सूखी हुई लकड़ी है वह यहां के लोगों को स्थानीय आधार पर दी जाये। लेकिन उसका परिणाम क्या हुआ? लकड़ी इकट्ठा की गई और उसको रायवाला में तीन सौ किलोमीटर दूर लाया गया और फिर आप कह रहे हैं कि इसे यहां से ले जाइये। यह इस तरह से वहां की जन-भावना का अपमान है और आपको इस बात के ऊपर विचार करना चाहिए। मैं आपसे कहता हूं कि आपने एक हजार फुट से ऊपर के हरे पेड़ो के कटान पर रोक लगा दी है। ठीक है, पर्यावरण बिगड़ता है तो उसको रोकना चाहिए। आपको यह भी देखना चाहिए कि आपके अधिकारी वन माफियाओं से मिलकर के बड़ी मात्रा में सांठगांठ किए हुए हैं और वहां पर इंजेक्शन देकर के पेड़ों को बड़ी मात्रा में सुखाया जा रहा है, देवदार के पेड़ों तक को सुखाया जा रहा है जब कि देवदार के पेड़ तो पांच हजार के ऊपर होते हैं। उसको देव वृक्ष भी कहते हैं। चीड़ के पेड़ों के जंगलों में भी ऐसा ही हो रहा है, पेड़ सुखाये जा रहे हैं और उसके बाद पेड़ों को काटा जा रहा है और जनता से कहा जा रहा है कि आप एक हजार से ऊपर पेड़ नहीं काट सकते हैं। पूरे उत्तरांचल के मध्य 70 लाख से ऊपर ही है। आपने उस पर क्या विचार किया है? पहले वनों के पास बसे गांवों के लोगों को पीढ़ी मिलती थी, लोगों को हक मिलता था क्या आप इस हक पर विचार करेंगे? यहां पर्यावरण की बड़ी बात हो रही थी। आखिर पर्यावरण किसके लिए है? क्या यह पशुओं के लिए है? यह वन नीति किसके लिए है? यह मानव के मंगल के लिए है। क्या आप वहां के मानव को मानव नहीं मानते हैं? क्या आप वहां के बारे में विचार करेंगे? ऐसे क्षेत्रों पर अगर विचार नहीं करेंगे तो आपकी कोई नीति सफल होने वाली नहीं है। मैं चाहता हूं कि यह वन कानून 1980 और 1988 भी सफल होना है तो इसको ग्राम सभा से जोड़िए। ग्राम कभी भी वनों की हानि नहीं करते हैं, वनों की हानि तो आपके अधिकारी और कर्मचारी करते हैं जिनकी आवश्यकताएं बढ़ी हैं। वे उन लुटेरों से मिलकर के वनों की हानि करवाते हैं। गांव के लोग तो वनों को अपनी मिल्कित मानते हैं, इसलिए उन्हें वनों को अपना मानने दीजिए। वन नीति को लागू करने के लिए लोगों में अपनापन लाइये, उनसे मिलिए, उनके सहयोग से सारी बातों को करिए। इससे एक रास्ता निकलेगा।

वनों में बड़ी मात्रा में आग लगती है। पिछली सरकार ने पिछले साल का बजट एक करोड़ नब्बे लाख रुपये रखा था। अच्छा है इस सरकार ने उसको बढ़ाया है, इसके लिए सरकार बधाई की पात्र है, उसने तीन करोड़ रुपये नियत किये हैं लेकिन तीन करोड़ की राशि बहुत ही कम है। यह मानना पड़ेगा कि 30 से 40 परसेंट जो इनका ही सर्वे है उसके हिसाब से 30 से 40 परसेंट एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है वनों का जहां आग लगती है। उसके ऊपर ठीक से विचार होना चाहिए और यह राशि बढ़ाई जानी चाहिए। एक विषय और है। आप जो राशि देते हैं देखने में यह आया है कि वन विभाग की जो अनुदान मांगे स्वीकृत होती हैं, जो प्रस्तावित उसके लिए धनराशि होती है वह पूरी व्यय नहीं होती है। इसके बारे में संसदीय स्थाई समिति ने अपना प्रतिवेदन दिया है कि इसके ऊपर योजना बनाते समय ठीक से विचार नहीं होता जैसी टिप्पणी की है। मैं उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं कि वर्ष 1993-94 में इसके लिए 143,08 करोड़ रुपये का अनुदान स्वीकृत हुआ था और उसमें से 111.93 करोड़ व्यय नहीं हुए, बच गए। इसी प्रकार से 1994-95 में 322.17 लाख रुपये स्वीकृत हुए और उसमें से 168.40 करोड़ रुपये बिना व्यय हुए बच गए। वर्ष 1995-96 में 207 करोड़ रुपये स्वीकृत हुए और उसमें से 105.26 करोड़ रुपये बिना व्यय हुए बच गए। सरकार ने पिछली पंचवर्षीय योजना में 797 करोड़ रुपये इसके लिए रखे थे। आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में 1200 करोड़ रुपया रखा गया था। लेकिन आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि जो वनों का ग्रामीणों से संबंध है, या जो वहां की आवश्यकताएं हैं, पत्थर का चुगान है, आवश्यकता की लकड़ी है, निजी उपयोग हेतु रेत का निकालना हैं, इनके बारे में विचार करें और इन सारी बातों की चर्चा हो तो रास्ता निकले। पर्यावरण को कोई पर्वत के लोग खराब नहीं करते हैं। हम यहां डीजल की बात करते हैं। सबसे

ज्यादा पर्यावरण डीजल के वाहनों से हो रहा है। उसका कानून भी बना हुआ है, पर्यावरण कानून-1986, जिसमें यह व्यवस्था है कि जब ध्वनि, जल और वायु का प्रदूषण होगा तो आप इसको रोक सकते हैं लेकिन लगता है कि लोगों को जानकारी नहीं है। जब कोई गाड़ी बाजार में आ गई तब आप उस पर मशीन लगाकर देखते हैं कि प्रदूषण है या नहीं। अरे, प्रदूषण नियंत्रण का कोई ऐसा यंत्र करखाने में लगाकर इसको बाधित क्यों नहीं किया जाता? उस कारखाने को बाधित किया जाए जिसमें डीजल व्हीकल्स बनते हैं जैसे ट्रक, जीप, मोटर और कार हैं। ये सब डीजल से चलते हैं। मैं विक्रम के बारे में जनता हूं। लखनऊ में विक्रम काफी संख्या में चलते हैं। इनकी वजह से कई बार लखनऊ की सड़कों से निकलना मुश्किल हो जाता है। जनता को सुविधा तो होती है, एक रुपए में दो किलोमीटर चले जाओं। लेकिन उससे जनता के जीवन को खतरा भी है। मैं जानता हूं कि सरकार की फैक्टरी स्कूटर इंडिया लखनऊ में है। क्यों नहीं कहते उस फैक्टरी से कि आप ऐसा यंत्र लगाइये कि यह प्रदूषण बन्द हो जाए?

भारत में प्रदूषण के मामले में लोग जागरुक थे। यहां अनेक विद्वान लोग बैठे हुए हैं। लोग पीपल की पूजा किया करते थे, बरगद की पूजा किया करते थे। आप में से बहुत से लोग जानते होंगे कि बरगद पांच किलोमीटर तक क्षेत्र को प्रदूषण रहित करता है, पीपल भी करता है, और तुलसी की भी यहां बात हो रही थी। पहाड़ों में स्थिति यह है कि कल जब संघ प्रिय गौतम जी बोल रहे थे तो वे मुर्दों के बारे में बोल रहे थे कि मुर्दों की राख नदी में बहती है, लेकिन हमारे यहां तो मूर्दा पूरा बहाया जाता है क्योंकि मुर्दों के जलाने के लिए लकड़ी प्राप्त नहीं होती है, केवल दग्ध करके नदी में छोड़ दिया जाता है। यह सौभाग्य है कि वहां प्रवाह है और प्रवाह के कारण वह बह जाता है।

इसलिए यह भी विचारणीय है कि ऐसे क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले लोगों को, सूखी लकड़ी जो वनों में गिरती है वह भी प्राप्त नहीं होती। और यह अधिकारियों की जानकारी में होगा कि पांच हजार फीट से ऊपर के क्षेत्र में हिम-नद आते हैं, ग्लेशियर आते हैं और बरफानी तूफान आते है और बाकी के तूफान और आंधी से बड़ी मात्रा में पेड़ गिरते हैं और वे पेड़ सड़ते रहते हैं लेकिन जनता के उपयोग में नहीं आते हैं। आवश्यकता है कि लोग जवान पेड़ों को न काटें लेकिन आवश्यकता यह भी है कि जो पेड़ जिस क्षेत्र में गिरते हैं, वहीं इकट्ठे किए जाएं, वहीं संचित किए जाएं और वहां के ग्रामवासियों को उनका उपयोग करने की सहूलियत प्रदान की जाए। अगर इसको व्यावहारिक रूप देंगे, वह कानून 1980 और 1988 को अगर हम जनहित से जोड़ेगे, तो शायद यह कानून सफल रहेगा। मैं इसका एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं। उस क्षेत्र में अंग्रेजों ने मसूरी बसाई थी। मसूरी में उस काल में बड़े-बड़े भूखंड थे जिन्हें प्राइवेट फरिस्ट कहते थे। बहुत से लोगों ने अपने मकान बना दिये और बहुतसे लोग नहीं बना पाए। अब उनको वन-कानून के अंतगर्त एनओसी नहीं मिलता है। आपका वन से पाला नहीं पड़ा है, देहरादून के लोगों से पूछो, जब तक वन कानून से एनओसी नहीं आयेगा तब तक कोई काम नहीं होगा। प्रश्न है कि जो भूमि के मालिक है उनका राजस्व अधिकार भूमि है अगर उसमें कोई पेड़ है तो आप पेड़ को काटने से रोकिए जो उसकी खाली भूमि में है। यह उसका अधिकार है कि वह अपनी खाली भूमि में भवन बनाए। आप कई मंजिल मत बनाने दीजिए केवल एक मंजिल बनाने दीजिए। लेकिन जो उसकी भूमि है उसमें उसको मकान बनाने का अधिकार है। अगर आप उसे रोकते हैं और कहते है कि अधिकार नहीं है तो उस भूमि को गवर्नमेंट खरीद ले, उसका अधिग्रहण कर ले और कह दे कि वन रहेगा लेकिन यह दोहरी नीति नहीं चल सकती है। आप कोई निर्णय भी नहीं करेंगे, उसका अपने स्वामित्व का उपयोग भी नहीं करने देंगे। आपका विकास प्राधिकारण और वन विभाग मिलकर बड़ी-बड़ी रकमों की कल्पना करता है। इसके साथ बड़ा भ्रष्टाचार लगा हुआ है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय इन बातों को देखें। इस बारे में मैंने माननीय मंत्री महोदय को एक पत्र भी लिखा था।

इसी तरह उस क्षेत्र में दो और समस्याएं हैं। उस क्षेत्र की तराई की भूमि जिसे हिमालय का चरणपाद कहना चाहिए, लगभग सात हजार एकड़ भूमि के वन भूमि क्षेत्र पर लोगों ने कब्जा किया हुआ है। ये कब्जे बढ़ रहे हैं। मैंने वहां के अधिकारयों से, डी०एम० से कहा कि जिन्होंने तुम्हारी धरती पर कब्जे किए हैं, ये जो यूकिलिप्टस और दूसरी चीजें उगाते हैं इनको ठेके मत दो। इनको जो आप बीच में कृषि कराते हैं, खेती पर जमीन देते हैं, मत दो। छोटें-छोटे टुकड़े बनाकर दस-दस, पांच-पांच एकड़ के उनको दो। ये 500 और 1000 के टुकड़े मत बनाओं लेकिन परिणाम है, सारा संबंध वही है जिसकी चर्चा मैंने पहले की है, इतनी खतरनाक स्थिति है। अब छुड़ाओं अपनी इस धरती को, नहीं छुड़ा सकते। जो उचित चीजें है वह आप नहीं करेंगे। मैं एक गांव का उल्लेख करना चाहता हूं। महोदय, ऋषिकेश में महातमा गांधी की एक शिष्या थी। उस शिष्या ने बापू ग्राम 1950 के दशक में बसाया था। आज तक वह बापू ग्राम एक समस्या बना

हुआ है। वहां बापू ग्राम बन गया और उसके पास ही आई०डी०पी०एल० की एक बहुत बड़ी फैक्टरी बनी हुई है। आई०डी०पी०एल० घाटे में है, आई०डी०पी०एल० की वह जमीन डीफारेस्ट होकर उनकी हो जाए, लेकिन -- नहीं हो रहा है। एक और फैक्ट्री है लाल कुआं में, कागज की फैक्टरी है, बिरला जी चले गए। बिरला परिवार की वह फैक्टरी है। कई सौ एकड़ जमीन प्राप्त कर चुके हैं और उसके पास ही गरीबों की एक 50 हजार की बस्ती बिन्दुखता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): मनोहर जी, आपकी पार्टी के दो सदस्य और हैं।

श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी: मैं खत्म करता हूं। मैं कभी हल्ला नहीं करता हूं। जो लोग कभी कभी बोलते हैं उनको थोड़ा बोलने देना चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): पार्टी के टाइम के बेसिस पर ही समय देना पड़ेगा।

श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी: यह जो बड़ा गांव है यह लाल कुआं के पास बिन्दुखता है। बहुत बड़ा गांव है। 50 हजार की बस्ती है और 60 के दशक से लोग इस पर काबिज हैं। वहां पर वन नहीं है लेकिन यह वन भूमि है। इसका निपटारा नहीं हुआ जब कि 1980 के ऐक्ट में यह साफ था कि 80 का कानून लागू होने से पहले जिन क्षेत्रों में लोग बसे थे, एक प्रकार से उस भूमि पर उनके अधिकृत कर दिया जाएगा। लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार शायद किसी प्रकार से चूक गई और यह प्रकरण नहीं भेजा गया। इसलिए ये दो मामले, बापू ग्राम और लाल कुआं के पास जो ग्राम बिन्दुखता है उन्हें सुलझाया नहीं गया है इसके ये दो प्रकरण हैं और सरकार जो सात हजार एकड़ वन भूमि है उसको नहीं बचा पा रही है, सरकार उसका अधिग्रहण नहीं कर पा रही है। यह इस तरह का मामला है जिससे आपकी सारी नीति पर प्रश्न चिन्ह लगता है।

उत्तरांचल के बारे में और उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में कहना चाहता हूं कि आज जो सबसे बड़ा वन क्षेत्र 83 प्रतिशत है उसके बारे में चर्चा करते हुए कुछ तथ्यों पर कुछ मानवीय बिन्दुओं पर विचार करना आवश्यक है। महोदय, मैं खत्म कर रहा हूं।

आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि वनों के क्षेत्रफल में वृद्धि हो। आंकड़ा यह है कि पिछले दो वर्षों में उत्तर प्रदेश में आठ वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र बढ़ा है। लेकिन यह सिर्फ पहाड़ों में बढ़ा है, उत्तर प्रदेश में कहीं नहीं बढ़ा है। लेकिन यह खुशी की बात है।

वनों के अंदर समाज के सहयोग से जड़ी-बूटियां जैसी छोटी चीजों को पैदा किया जाए। क्योंकि अगर जड़ी-बूटियों को पैदा करना शुरू करेंगे तो आग का जो सिस्टम है उस पर फौरी कंट्रोल कर पायेंगे। आग से बड़े वृक्षों को इतनी हानि नहीं होती जितनी की वनस्पति को होती है जिससे, जो आप ओजान-आजान की बात करते हैं उसको नुकसान होता है।

इसी प्रकार से परम्परागत रूप से लकड़ी आदि पर निर्भरता कम करने के पूरे उपाय होने चाहिए। पर्यावरण वाहिनी एक विषय आया था और शायद सरकार ने 200 रुपए मासिक मानदेय पर्यावरण वाहिनी को देने की बात की थी। मेरा इस में यह कहना है कि यह पर्यावरण वाहिनी 200 रुपए में नहीं बनेगी। जिस तरह से केंद्र सरकार ने टास्क फोर्स सड़क बनाने के लिए बनाया है, सीमा सड़क कतकबल जिस तरह से उनको पूरी तनख्वाह देते हैं और उनसे पूरे समय काम लेते हैं उसी तरह से चाहे जंगल की सुरक्षा की बात हो चाहे जंगलों में दूसरे प्रकार के काम हों उसके लिए पर्यावरण वाहिनी होनी चाहिए और उनको पूरा वेतन मिलना चाहिए। जहां जहां 50 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा वन हैं, जो इस तरह के जिले हैं वहां पर पर्यावरण वाहिनी बनाई जाए और उनको पूरा वेतन दिया जाए ताकि वे समाज के साथ जुड़ सकें। सरकार को प्रत्येक क्षेत्र पंचायत में प्रत्येक ब्लाक क्षेत्र में इस तरह के टास्क फार्स बनाने चाहिए। इसके लिए हर ब्लॉक में एक बटालियन बनाई जा सकती है जिसमें 200 लोग हो। इससे ऐसे क्षेत्रों में लोगों के लिए रोजगार के अवसर भी पैदा होंगे।

परसों नागालैंड के और दूसरे लोग कह रहे थे पर्वतीय क्षेत्र के लोगों की जो समस्या है। इसका कारण रोजी-रोटी का अभाव भी है। इससे लोगों को रोजी-रोटी मिलेगी और वनों की सुरक्षा होगी। देश की वर्तमान सरकार जो कहो रही थी कि हम एक करोड़ काम देंगे तो वे काम आसमान से नहीं आएंगे। वे काम ऐसे ही रास्तों से आएंगे।

एक बात कहकर अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। जैसा मैंने अभी उल्लेख किया था कि ये पूरा पैसा व्यय नहीं कर पाते हैं। अभी गंगा की शुद्धि का अभियान था। पिछली बार बहुत सी योजनाओं की चर्चा हुई थी। मैं संयोग से ऋषिकेष में रहता हूं। ऋषिकेष में जो गंगा की तलहटी है उसमें गंगा के किनारे एक तरफ तो जंगल और दूसरी तरफ बस्ती है। बस्ती में ऐसे अनधिकृत लोग जो भारत के नागरिक भी नहीं हैं बड़ी मात्रा में पड़े हुए है। पिछले जो वन मंत्री थे मैं उनकी इस प्रसंग पर चिंता

के प्रति अपनी आत्मीयता का प्रदर्शन करना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने कुछ बातों के बारे में चिंता की। एक चिंता तो उन्होंने यह की थी कि वहां के लोगों को बाघ खाते हैं और दूसरी यह चिंता थी कि ये पैसे जो खर्च नहीं हो रहे हैं, ये तुरंत खर्च होने चाहिए। अनधिकृत लोग जो कब्जा कर रहे है, यह कब्जा रोका जाना चाहिए। उन्होंने उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को एक निर्देश भी भेजा था। दूसरा निर्देश उन्होंने भेजा था कि उस क्षेत्र में बाघों की संख्या बढ़ रही है। आपने वन्य जंतु संरक्षण का कानून बनाया है। ठीक है वन्य जंतुओं के प्रति लोगों में अच्छा भाव होना चाहिए। लेकिन वहां लोगों को बाघ खा रहे हैं। बाघ के खाने की एवज में आप क्या दे रहे है? पिछले दिनों तक वह 5 हजार रुपए था। अब बढ़ाकर 50 हजार रुपए हुआ है। वह पत्र भी उन्हीं का था। लेकिन इसको आप प्रदेश पर मत छोड़िए। प्रदेश में वन्य जंतु संरक्षक लखनऊ में बैठता है और लखनऊ से उत्तरांचल की दूरी एक हजार किलोमीटर की है। कोई आदमी वहां से जल्दी आ नहीं सकता है। इसलिए इसको केंद्र अपने हाथ में ले—वन्य जंतु संरक्षण को।

बजट में मैं देख रहा था कि वन विभाग के नगर की 23 परसेंट राशि वन्यजीव संरक्षण के लिए रखा गया है। इस दायित्व का भी आप निर्वाह करें कि इस क्षेत्र में जो लोग बाघ या अन्य जंतुओं के शिकार हो जाते हैं उनका दायित्व सीधे केन्द्र सरकार ले और 2 लाख रुपए मृत हो जाने पर तथा 50 हजार रुपए क्षतिग्रस्त हो जाने पर देने की व्यवस्था करे। पशुओं का भी विचार इस दृष्टि से करें।

आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमन, पर्यावरण और वन व्यक्ति के जीवन में सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण हो गए हैं जिस तरह की स्थिति बनती जा रही है। जिस तरह से पर्यावरण का संतुलन बिगड़ रहा है, मनुष्य का जीवन जिस तरह से सीधा प्रभावित हो रहा है यह हम सबके लिए चिंता का विषय है।

मैं बहुत थोड़े समय में कुछ बातें वन और कुछ पर्यावरण से संबंधित—चाहे वह वायु प्रदूषण हो, ध्वनि प्रदूषण हो, जल प्रदूषण हो—करूंगा। माननीय मंत्री जी यहां उपस्थित है।

He is a well read and a very competent Minister.

जैसा हमने देखा है इन्हें। इसलिए मैं कुछ सुझाव भी दूंगा जिन पर प्रभावी ढंग से कार्यवाही हो सकती है।

जो श्रीमन आंकड़े हैं वनों के मैं यह बताना चाहता हूं अपने निजी अनुभव से कि वे आंकड़े भी सच नहीं है। आंकड़ों के हिसाब से भी वनों की कटाई के बाद वनों का प्रतिशत निरंतर गिर रहा है। लेकिन सच बात यह है कि वे आंकड़े सही नहीं हैं। वनों की जो जमीन है उन पर निरंतर कब्जे हो रहे है। कोई मानीटरिंग की व्यवस्था नहीं है। मैं आपको एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं। हमारे यहां उत्तर प्रदेश में इटावा जिले में कुछ साल पहले जब लोगों को यह पता चला कि यह वन की जमीन है तो उस हजारों एकड़ जमीन पर लोगों ने खेती करनी शुरू कर दी जबकि किसी भी कानून के तहत खेती के लिए उस जमीन को कन्वर्ट नहीं किया जा सकता है। लेकिन जो ला इंप्लीमेंटिंग एजेंसी है वे न तो उसकी तरफ ध्यान देती है और न उनको बेदखल करने की कोशिश करती है।

तो कहीं भी, क्योंकि वह कंवर्ट हो नहीं सकती है, इसलिए आपके रेकार्ड में वन की जमीन है और एक्चुअल वह वन के पास है ही नहीं। जब कोई अधिकारी ठीक आ जाता है तो वह जमीन फिर वन विभाग को वापस आ जाती है। हमारे यहां भी ऐसा हुआ, उसके बाद फिर कब्जा कर लिया गया न्यायालय से लोग फर्जी फैसला करा कर फिर हाई कोर्ट में चले जाते हैं। स्टे ले आते है। वन विभाग की जमीन है। हजारों एकड़ जमीन पर कब्जा किए हुए हैं। लेकिन उस जमीन को कोई देखने वाला नहीं है। मैं चाहूंगा कि माननीय मंत्री जी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से स्पेसेफिक यह सूचना मांगें कि संबंधित जिलों के जिलाधिकारी जहां वन विभाग की जमीन है, इस बात का सर्टिफिकेट दें कि उनके यहां वन विभाग की जमीन पर किसी ने कब्जा नहीं किया है। जंगल की कटाई का परिणाम यह है श्रीमन, हमारे यहां इटावा बिल्कुल यमुना नदी के किनारे है। यमुना और चंबल के रेवींस में बहुत जबर्दस्त प्लांटेशन हुआ करता था। आज से लगभग 35 साल पहले जब मैं इटावा में बी॰एस॰सी॰ का स्टूडेंट था तो वहां कोई स्टेडियम नहीं था। स्टूडेंट्स दौड़ने के लिए और मार्निंग वाक के लिए जंगल में ही जाया करते थे। वहां बहुत जबर्दस्त प्लांटेशन हुआ करता था। शीशम के, जामुन के, आम के और तरह-तरह के प्लांट्स थे। लेकिन आज स्थिति यह हो गई है कि आप मीलों चले जाइये एक भी पेड़ आपको नहीं मिलेगा। लोगों ने टहलना बंद कर दिया है। क्योंकि उस समय हवा अच्छी मिलती थी। टी॰बी॰ सेनिटोरियम बना दिया गया था कि मरीज वहां रहेंगे तो अच्छी हवा पायेंगे और स्वास्थ्य लाभ करेंगे। अब केवल बबूल है। इसके अलावा कुछ नहीं है कारण क्या है?

आप बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर सोशल फारेस्टरी के लिए, सामाजिक वानिकी के लिए पैसा देते हैं। वह बंटता है। एम०पी०, एम०एल०एज० जाते हैं जिले की गवर्निंग बॉडी होती है डी०आर०डी०ए० की, उसमें वे बैठते भी है। केन्द्र सरकार बहुत पैसा देती है। उस पैसे का होता क्या है? सायल कंजर्वेशन के लिए चला जाता है। सायल कंज़र्वेशन के नाम पर यू विल भी सरपराइज्ड टू नो कि 70 परसेंट तक इंजीनियर्स और अधिकारी कमीशन लेते हैं। जो दो साल पहले काम हुआ वही बाद में किया हुआ दिखा दिया जाता है। आपको एक स्पेसेफिक केस देता हूं। आपने पैसा दिया है, केन्द्र सरकार के द्वारा केवल इटावा जिले में सायल कंज़र्वेशन के नाम पर सोशल फारेस्टरी का जो पैसा दिया गया है, चार साल की जांच करा लीजिएगा यू विल फाइंड कि हर दूसरे साल वही काम हो रहा है जो दो साल पहले हो चुका है। यह स्थिति है। प्लांटेशन के नाम पर क्या होता है? एक रुपया, दो रुपये में कहते हैं कि यह प्लांट आया, पौधा आया। कौन सा पौधा? बबूल का पौधा बबूल के बीज दे दिए। चार आने के एक किलो आ गए और बीज बो दिए। चार आने के बबूल के बीज पौधा बनने पर 40 हजार में बिक जायेंगे। इसके अलावा और कोई प्लांट नहीं लगता है। इतनी नैग्लीजेंस है, इतनी केयरलैसनैस है। इसलिए केवल कानून बनाने से काम चलने वाला नहीं है जब तक कि उसको इंप्लीमेंट करने वाली एजेंस इफैक्टिव नहीं होगी और उसके पीछे पोलिटीकल विल नहीं होगी। मैं तो समझता हूं कि यह सारी डेमोक्रेटिक सिस्टम की वजह से सब गड़बड़ी होती है अगर कभी कोई पांच साल रहने वाली सरकार ईमानदारी से यह सोच ले कि आगे के लिए चुनाव में जीत कर नहीं आना है तो सारी समस्याओं का सोल्यूशन निकल आएगा। यह जो कानून इंप्लीमेंट नहीं हो रहा है। उसे देख लीजिए कि सारा पैसा कहां जा रहा है। आप उसके मॉनिटरिंग की कोई व्यवस्था करें। इतना महत्वपूर्ण यह विभाग है। यहां भी जो स्टैंडिंग कमेटी है उसमें यह विभाग साईस एंड टैक्नोलोजी के साथ है। हालांकि दोनों विभाग अपनी-अपनी जगह महत्वपूर्ण हैं, लेकिन इसके लिए एक इंडीपेंडेंट कमेटी होनी चाहिए, क्योंकि इससे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण और कौन सा विभाग हो सकता है? कोई और वजहें हो सकती हैं या और बातें हो सकती हैं जिनकी वजह से कोई अन्य विभाग महत्वपूर्ण हो। लेकिन पीने का पानी, सांस लेना, घूमना जिंदा रहना जिस पर निर्भर करता हो उस विभाग को अगर नेग्लैक्ट किया जाए तो वह अच्छी बात नहीं है। मेरी यह भी मांग रहेगी कि इस विभाग के लिए पार्लियामेंट की डिपार्टमेंट रिलेटेड कमेटी सेपरेट हो। इसको साईंस एंड टैक्नोलोजी के साथ जोड़ कर दोनों विभागों की एक कमेटी जो कर दी गई है, यह ठीक बात नहीं है। दोनों विभाग अपनी-अपनी जगह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

एक बात और मैं वनों से संबंधित कहना चाहूंगा कि आप केवल वनों की कटाई रोक दीजिए। महोदय, केवल 5 साल तक अगर जंगल की कटाई न हो और पानी हो तो कहीं आप को एक भी वृक्ष लगाने की जरूरत नहीं है। इतना वेजिटेशन होता है, इतनी वनसतियां उगती हैं कि अगर हम उन को सुरक्षित रखा जाय तो जंगल की कमी नहीं होगी। आप देखेंगे कि जो वनस्पति केरल में है, वह दिल्ली के आसपास के फारेस्ट में भी मिल जाएगी। तो उन को कोई बाहर से लगाने नहीं आता है। अगर पानी हो और कटाई न हो और आप केवल सुरक्षित रखिए, जाने कहां-कहां की तरह-तरह की वनस्पति आ जाती है। हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में एटा जिले में एक पटना बर्ड है सेंक्चुरी है जोकि बहुत खूबसूरत है। उस के लिए किसी गवर्नमेंट ने कभी एक पैसा नहीं दिया। सोशल फारेस्ट्री का भी पैसा जाता है, वह भी उस में नहीं लगता, लेकिन उस की तरफ तबज्जो दी जाय तो वह हिन्दुस्तान की बहुत खूबसूरत जगहों में से एक होगी। वहां साइबेरियां से और जाने कहां-कहां से जाने किस-किस तरह के पक्षी आते रहते हैं। लेकिन उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक चीज का खतरा है कि जब लोगों को कोई जगह सुंदर दिखाई देती है, चाहे वह बर्ड सेंक्चुरी हो या और कोई हो, वहां घुमने वाले लोग जाने लगते हैं। ऐसे लोगों की गाड़ियों पर आप को प्रतिबंध लगाना पड़ेगा क्योंकि इन का काफिला जब जंगल के अंदर जाता है तो इस से पर्यावरण तो प्रदूषित होता ही है साथ ही चिड़ियां और दूसरे जीव-जंतुओं के आवास भी खत्म हो जाते हैं। इस से उन को बहुत नुकसान होता है। महोदय, हालांकि शिकार पर प्रतिबंध है, लेकिन आप ने समाचार पत्रों में पढ़ा होगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में कई प्रसिद्ध और बड़े सीनियर आफिसर जोकि दिल्ली में आकर सेक्रेटरी स्तर के अधिकारी भी रहे, वह और उन के बच्चे शिकार करते हुए पकड़े गए। तो आप को इन चीजों पर सख्ती से पाबंदी लगानी चाहिए।

महोदय, वनों के संबंध में मैं ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहूंगा क्योंकि हमारे मित्र ध्यानी जी ने अभी उत्तरांचल की बात की है। वह बहुत खूबसूरत जगह है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप ने वहां के फूलों की घाटी और उस के ब्रम्ह कमल का नाम सुना होगा। वहां ऐसे-ऐसे सुगंधित फूल और पौधे हैं कि आप काश्मीर की घाटी को भूल जाएंगे। मैं उस विषय में ज्यादा नहीं

कहना चाहंगा और सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि वन ही जीवन है इसलिए आप उन को सुरक्षित रखने की कोशिश कीजिए और इस संबंध में कानून को सख्ती से इम्प्लीमेंट कीजिए।

महोदय, एअर-पॉल्यूशन पर कल काफी बातें हुई थी। मैं इस संबंध में कुछ स्पेसिफिक बात कहना चाहूंगा। श्रीमान् ताजमहल की वजह से आगरा की तरफ एअर पॉल्यूशन को रोकने के लिए काफी ध्यान दिया गया है। यहां तक कि पब्लिक इंटरेस्ट लिटिगेशन के जरिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट तक को इस मामले में हस्तक्षेप करना पड़ा है। सन् 1982-83 में आगरा में जो कोल बेस्ट थर्मल पावर प्लांट था, उस को बाहर शिफ्ट कर दिया गया और 1983 के बाद से आगरा में कोई नया कोल वेस्ट इंडस्ट्री नहीं आई। वर्ष 1993 में 212 इंडस्ट्रियल यूनिट्स को बंद कर दिया गया। वर्ष 1996 में 456 इंटों के भट्टों को जोकि 20 किलोमीटर के रेडियस में थे, बंद कर दिए गए। महोदय, कहा यह जाता है कि 53 हजार प्लांट्स भी लगाए गए, लेकिन स्थिति यह है कि आगरा में सस्पेंडेड पर्टीकुलेट मैटर जोकि जीवन के लिए सब से ज्यादा हानिकारक है, उसकी डेंसिटी दिल्ली से भी ज्यादा है। इतना सब कुछ होने के बावजूद प्रश्न यह है कि पाल्यूशन कम क्यों नहीं हुआ? वहां लगभग एक लाख डीजल के जनरेटर चलते हैं क्योंकि बिजली नहीं आती जबकि 1995 के हिसाब से उन की संख्या 70 हजार थी। अभी माननीय सदस्य ने विक्रम थ्रीव्हीलर की चर्चा की थी। विक्रम ने देहरादून को नर्क बना दिया है। महोदय, पहले देहरादून बहुत साफ-सुथारा हुआ करता था, लेकिन उस की हालत आज बहुत खराब है। तो इन बातों पर आज थ्रस्ट नहीं है। उस तरफ ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए। श्रीमान् पाल्यूशन के मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने डायरेक्शन दी है कि जमुना नदीं के पानी में पाल्यूशन बहुत आता है, इसलिए जमुना नदीं में कोई गाय, भैंस नहीं जा सकती। अभी मिश्रा जी यहां नहीं हैं, मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या दुनिया के किसी न्यायालय का फैसला रोक लेगा कि गंगा, जमुना या किसी और नदी में गाय, भैंस न जाय।

[4. P.M.]

मान लिया आप शहर में रोक लगा लेंगे, लेकिन हजारों किलोमीटर बाहर नदी बहती है, उसमें कैसे रोका जाएगा? गाय और भैंस के पानी में जाने से पोल्युशन होता है क्या? पोल्युशन तो होता है इंडस्ट्रीज से जो कैमीकल्स रेसिड्यू डिसचार्ज होता है, उससे फास्जीन नामक एक रेजीड्यू वह जब पानी में जाता है तो वन बिलियपन टाइम वोल्यूम को जहरीला बना देता है। गाय का गोबर, भैंस का गोबर तो मछली का खाना होता है। मछली का काम करने वाले यह बात जानते हैं और वह जहां पानी में पड़ता है उससे 6-7 किलोमीटर डाउन स्ट्रीम तक मछली और कछुआ उसको खा के साफ कर देता है। तो वह तो इकोलोजी को ठीक करता है। मछली और कछुओं का शिकार अगर आप नदियों में से रुकवा दें तो नदियों में जो पानी का पोल्युशन है, वह खतम हो सकता है। यह शिकार लगातार बेरोकटोक हो रहा है।

महोदय, मुझे आश्चर्य हुआ, एक दिन मैं आगरा गया, मेरे एक मित्र थे, हैं अभी बड़े आफीसर, जब मैंने उनका पता पूछा, तो पता लगा कि यमुना जी पर गए हुए हैं। डेड लाइन दे रखी थी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने और सारा जिला प्रशासन यमुना के किनारे खड़ा था कि आज यमुना जी में कोई गाय और भैंस नहीं जाने देंगे। किसी इंडस्ट्री की ओर नहीं देखते हैं। आप जानते हैं, पब्लिक इंटरेस्ट लिटिगेशन कैसे होती है? कोई पोल्युशन डिवाइस बनाने वाली इन्डस्ट्री है, उसके किसी आदमी या एजेण्ट ने यह पी०आई०एस० कर दी और उसमें आदेश हो गया कि कोई इंडस्ट्री तब तक नहीं लग सकती, जब तक पोल्युशन कंट्रोल डिवाइस उसके पास नहीं होगा। इससे क्या होने लगा? आप आगरा टीम भेज दीजिए, पता करवा लीजिए। क्या कोई इंडस्ट्री बंद हो गई? कागज पर बंद हुई। फर्जी सर्टिफिकेट ले आए पोल्युशन कंट्रोल डिवाइस का और कह दिया कि लग गई यह डिवाइस। मैं इसलिए यह उदाहरण दे रहा हूं कि इतना सब कुछ होने के बाद भी एस०पी०एम० आगरा में ज्यादा क्यों है? क्योंकि इंपलीमेंटेशन नहीं हो रहा किसी तरह कानून का।

महोदय, जहां तक साउंड का सवाल है, एक तो दिल्ली में प्रेसर होर्न बंद करवा दीजिए, माननीय मंत्री महोदय। एक बार राजेश पायलट जी ने बंद करवा दिया था। कुछ मंत्रियों को बुरा लगा होगा, लेकिन यह जरूरी भी है। अगर आप पिछला चुनाव मैनिफेस्टो देखें बी०जे०पी० का, तो उसमें यह था कि पोल्युशन फ्री दिल्ली बना देंगे और 15 साल पुराने जो कामर्शियल व्हीकल है, उनको फेज-आउट कर दिया जाएगा। क्या यह ऐसा हुआ? जो फिरोजशाह रोड पर रहते हैं, रायसीना रोड पर रहते हैं, राजेन्द्र प्रसाद रोड पर रहते हैं या जनपथ पर रहते हैं, वे जानते हैं कि उस रोड पर कितना हैवी व्हीकल चलता है। कानून है कि सब व्हीकल्स पर एक पोल्युशन कंट्रोल का सर्टिफिकेट होना चाहिए। यह 90 परसेंट थ्री-व्हीलर, 60 से 70 परसेंट बड़ी बसें, 80 परसेंट ट्रक कल ही बंद हो सकते हैं, अगर इस कानून का इंपलीमेंटेशन किया जाए। पोल्युशन को रोकने वाले डिवाइसेस जो है या जो पोल्युशन कंट्रोल

का लेवल है, जो व्हीकल पर रहना चाहिए, वह कोई नहीं रखता है। हम लोगों के सामने यह सब होता है। अधिकारी वहीं से गुजरते हैं, कोई कुछ नहीं करता है। अब अपने आप तो यह सब होने वाला नहीं है। इस पोल्युशन से कैंसर हो रहा है, लाखों आदमी मर रहे हैं, प्री-मैच्योर डेथ से लेकर तमाम रोग हो रही है, लेकिन कुछ नहीं हो रहा।

महोदय, मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि किसी एग्रीमेंट के तहत केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा इटावा जिले में चंबल और यमुना में कुछ साल पहले मगर के बच्चों को छोड़ा गया था। इसमें यह व्यवस्था थी कि यह बच्चे जब बड़े हो जाएंगे, फिर इनसे जो बच्चे होंगे तो उनको दूसरी जगह ले जाया जाएगा। जब कई साल होने के बाद वहां से बच्चे नहीं मिले तो दिल्ली से एक डायरेक्शन गई। पता यह चला कि जो चंबल और यमुना की सैण्ड के ठेके होते है, उनमें उन मगर के अंडे चले जाते हैं और बच्चे पैदा नहीं हो पाते है। तो बंदिश लग गई। कोई बालू नहीं उठाई जा सकती। इटावा और आगरा के बीच में चंबल और यमुना है, जहां पूरी बंदिश है। जब मैं यहां दिल्ली आता हूं कभी आगरा होकर, तो जो चंबल और यमुना के बीच से होकर रोड है फतेहपुर-वाहवाली, उससे होकर आता हूं। प्रति दिन सुबह कम से कम डेढ़ सौ ट्रक बालू के भरे हुए आगरा के अंदर ताजमहल के किनारे तक खड़े मिलते हैं। सारे अधिकारी वहीं से निकलते हैं, कलेक्टर वहां से गुजरता है, एस०पी० वहां से गुजरता है, सब देखते हैं। कोई कांट्रेक्ट हुआ ही नहीं, कोई बोली बोली नहीं गई, किसी को ठेका दिया नहीं गया। इतना संवेदनहीन हो गया है प्रशासन, कि उसकी आंख के सामने कानून तोड़ा जा रहा है। कोई उस कानून पर अमल नहीं करने वाला, किसी के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही करने वाला नहीं क्योंकि कोई नाराज हो जाएगा। यह किसी नेता के ट्रक हैं या किसी मंत्री के ट्रक हैं या सत्ता के बाहर या सत्ता के अंदर रहने वाले किसी इम्पोर्टेण्ट आदमी के ट्रक है या व्हीकल हैं, जो गड़बड़ काम कर रहे हैं और इनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही होगी तो अधिकारी का ट्रांसफर हो जाएगा।....

अगर यह मानसिकता बनी रहेगी तो कभी कोई रिजल्ट नहीं निकल सकता। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं, माननीय मंत्री जी, कि यह जो बड़े व्हीकल और छोटे व्हीकल बड़े पैमाने पर पाल्युशन कर रहे हैं, व्हीकुलर एमीशन सर्वाधिक पाल्युशन क्रिएट कर रहा है, जिसकी वजह से दिल्ली में, जैसा कि कल मैडम रिबैलो ने कहा था, प्रति घंटे एक मौत होती है इस पाल्युशन की वजह से। प्रिमैच्योर डेथ होती है और न जाने कितना लॉस होता है, जाने कितनी तरह की बीमारियां होती हैं दूषित पानी की वजह से — जांडिस हुआ, उसके बाद हेपाटाइटिस ए, बी, सी और दुनियाभर की बीमारियां हो जाती हैं और महंगी होने के कारण आप वैक्सीन नहीं दे सकते। तो ये सारी दिक्कतें पैदा हो रही हैं इस पाल्युशन से।

एक चीज़ और, जैसा कि कल गौतम जी ने कहा, जो सबसे ज्यादा खतरा पैदा कर रही है वह है प्लास्टिक थैली। मेरा आपसे अनुरोध है कि डोमेस्टिक परपज़िज के लिए कम्प्लीट बैन लगना चाहिए इस प्लास्टिक थैली पर। इस पर पूरा प्रतिबंध लगाइए, यह मेरी आपसे गुज़ारिश है।

तो वनों को काटने से रोकने के लिए, वनों की जो जमीन है, जिस पर लोग कब्ज़ा कर रहे हैं, उनके सर्टिफिकेट कलैक्टरों से मंगाइए कि उन पर कोई कब्जा नहीं है और पाल्युशन के बारे में आप एक दिन दिल्ली को ही देख लीजिए। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि एक दिन मंत्री जी चले जाएं, आप तो बहुत यंग और एनर्जेटिक मंत्री हैं, एक दिन अगर मंत्री चेकिंग पर निकल जाएगा तो अधिकारी और सब लोग चल देंगे, ठीक हो जाएंगे।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपने वक्तव्य को समाप्त करता हूं। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. The deteriorating environmental condition is a matter of serious concern not only to us but for the world as a whole. The situation is going out of control today. We cannot hold the country or its functionals responsible for this situation. The globe as a whole has to take care of the environment today. Sir, to maintain environmental stability and ecological balance, forests play an important role. Today I would like to express my views on this subject. In early eighties, we had 22 per cent of our ground area covered with forests. This area was equivalent to 75 million hectares of land. But over a period of ten years, this covered area declined by almost three per cent. Getting alarmed by the situation, our national policy-makers decided to introduce the Forest Conservation Act in 1980. At the same time, a Committee was also consituted under the chairmanship of Mr. Tiwari who was the Vice-

Chairman of the Planning Commission at that time. The Tiwari Committee was asked to go into various aspects of environmental protection and also identify areas of environmental concern. My colleagues have spoken at length. They have given a lot of data and statistics. But I would not like to go into those details. I would like to say that unless and until a pragmatic policy is adopted, we are not going to contribute much to this serious problem which the whole world is facing today.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE) IN THE CHAIR]

Our rivers are polluted. The water which we drink is all polluted. Thirty-three per cent of our children are suffering from lung problems and lung diseases. Ten thousand people die in Delhi alone every year because of pollution in air. Madam, the problem in the country as a whole is very alarming. I was going through a document and was shocked to see that the major cities in our country generate 2,000 crore litres of sewage waste water per year, and only one-tenth is treated; the sewage generation in major cities in India has increased six times during the last 50 years; the water requirement for industry alone has gone up forty times; the municipal waste has grown seven times and the disposal continues to be unscientific and hazardous.

Madam, yesterday Mr. Sangh Priya Gautam was talking about various ways and means and was suggesting that we should ban this and we should ban that. That is not the solution. We can ban plastic, but this is not going to create environmental harmony. We have to keep pace with the world. We cannot put ourselves behind. All right, plastic industry is a hazardous industry. But it doesn't mean that we put a ban on it and try to make ourselves happy by banning that. Now various measures have been taken by the Department, and the Government, to ensure that industrial pollution is checked. But what is actually happening in industrial growth is blocked because unrealistic conditions are being imposed. Today every bus of Delhi Transport Corporation is like a polluting industry and nobody is doing anything in that regard. Madam, what is the purpose or the sense in keeping the industry in Delhi when Delhi is one of the most polluted cities in the world? Even last week, certain plots were offered for setting up industrial estates in Delhi. There are hundreds and thousands of units creating pollution. They are situated in Delhi. The Supreme Court had at one time desired that these industries be shifted out of Delhi so that the pollution is kept under control. Madam, certainly this will help, but our Government has to take determined and concerted steps to ensure that the menace of pollution is checked. Our forest area is dwindling. The forest area is getting degraded day by day because of increase in population, grazing or poaching, or whatever other reasons we have. The area should be expanded. Certain sites outside the big cities should be identified for setting up industries, and industries should be located outside the urban areas. Madam, when we have no power, industries have to maintain their pace, industries have to pay the salaries and wages and therefore industries have to meet their ways and means. They have to run on generators.

If we run generators, naturally there will be smoke. We have the new technology which ensures that pollution is reduced as much as possible. But it is there. A small Diesel pump manufactured in our country is equal to a medium-scale industry so far as pollution is concerned. Millions of tonnes of polluted water and effluent waste is being released in different rivers every year. We should think of these basic issues rather than banning this industry or that industry. That is not going to solve the problem. The Western nations also have gone in for massive infrastructure development and industrialisation. They also had to compromise to some extent with environment and forests. But, at the same time, they ensured that plants were

grown in an area which was three or four times more than the area which was used for industrialisation. We cannot just say that we banned this and we have banned that because it was causing pollution. That is not going to solve the problem. The Western nations are asking other countries, like Malaysia, Indonesia, Burma and certain South American countries not to cut their forests. But certain nations depend only on forest products. We have to see how best we can go in for industrialisation at the same time maintaining environmental harmony and ecological balance. I would request the hon. Minister to see that this harmony is maintained. We cannot go back on our industrialisation programme and, at the same time, we cannot compromise with our environment. I don't want to go into the details. I would like to say that this is a very serious problem. It cannot be taken lightly. It should not be taken up in piecemeal but it should be taken up as a whole. Everybody in the country should associate himself/herself with this problem. Thank you.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH (Gujarat): Madam, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on this very important subject. In fact, I told the Leader of the United Front Parliamentary Group, "I don't want to speak on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Industry or the Ministry of Finance, but I would like to speak on the Ministry of Environment and Forests." Now there were two kind of speeches by the hon. Members. One kind was about discussing environment as a whole and the other was where the hon. Members expressed their local concerns. What I plan to do is, to follow a mixed strategy. I will discuss the issue at the local, State, national and global level. But in each case I will discuss about the problems of my own city and of my own State and even a global problem which affects us. Then I will discuss the general problems because we have a very competent Minister whom I know for some time.

And I have prepared my arguments such that we can get some solace from him on this subject which cuts across party lines. When I talk about our own problems, it is only to bring his attention something which he knows because it is the wearer who knows where the shoe pinches.

Madam, I would like to start with the urban pollution problem not because the rural problems are not important but because I believe that for the land and water problem at least we have a paradigm. We have tremendous problems of soil erosion. But we have a number of success stories and we have a method and a policy doctrine and even schemes with which to resolve the issue. The question is to let these success stories spread. I will come to that later on. But in the urban areas, my submission for the hon. Minister's consideration is that the task is very difficult because we don't even have a paradigm and he, together with other people, will have to search for and implement such a paradigm. Therefore, I don't find it very strange, as I look through the Budget papers, I find that there is only two crore rupees allocation for explicit urban projects. It can be said— may be I am wrong in which case I would like to be corrected, but I did try to go through the Budget papers very conscientiously—that this is a problem at the State level, that is the pollution control boards. At least according to a newspaper report, I read that the Ministry and the Minister are encouraging them to raise more resources. But, by and large, their approach is a negative approach. It is not that I don't agree with it. I think that those who pollute must be asked to pay and the laws must be implemented more carefully. And I agree with all the Members who spoke before me that those who pollute should be treated not with incentive but with taxes. But before the event, to avoid urban problems on a larger scale, you know the kind of planning where people get together, and that is where we don't seem to have an approach. Whether it is the problem of

water pollution, whether it is the problem of air pollution, where it is the problem of sewerage disposal, the whole question is one of technology upgradation so that you use less of energy and materials in the process of industrialisation. One of the great success stories of the early 90s has been that with large industries, the energy intensity has come down and that is the great consequence for pollution or it is the material intensity in some industries as somebody was referring to plastic waster. Now we have to encourage these processes. It is known that those things which become effluents become a part of the productive process by recycling. But the question is that the Ministry has to initiate approaches so that these technologies become a part of normal investment and protection, so that we don't create a problem and then talk of abatement but from the beginning we encourage these processes which do not lead to pollution or when we have pollutants we talk of recycling. Now, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister a particular case. Perhaps it should have been brought to his attention even earlier. It is pertaining to my own city of Ahmedabad. The hon. Member, Shri Narendra Mohan, was talking about tiny industries and the contribution they make towards exports. In Ahmedabad, when the textile industry went down, one of the indutries which came up was drugs. We are one of the largest exporters of chemical intermediates and drugs in the country. We export something like Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 600 crores worth of these products and if you look at your export pattern, we earn a lot of foreign exchange. But there is pollution. A lot of these people are small people. They are not big ones. There are a few big people, some large companies. But a lot of them are very small—formulators of paints and so on. Now, like many other rivers, Sabarmati no longer exists most times of the years, when it is like the Yamuna only a drain. But when there are floods, it floods. Now in the whole of industrial Ahmedabad we have an effluent channel, which we call, the 'Khari Anikut,' which is near our industrial estate. It was meant to take away the effluent, but now it is full. When floods come, those waters come into the homes of people. People suffer in a terrible manner, which is described, and it has to be read, in the Gujarati Press, the *Gujarat Smachar* on our local newspapers. From the last four years we have been asking for a scheme. The industry there had said that it would contribute anywhere between thirty to fifty crores of rupees. I had asked your Ministry as an MP from that area and before that as a Minister: would the Minister and would the Ministry please come there? This is a case where people are willing to contribute. This is a case where you have a World Bank project because as I look at your budget papers, out of Rs. 373.43 crores for Central Schemes for the States, Rs. 317.43 crores is the World Bank money. So, we have a World Bank project. The Ministry seems to have very little flexibility outside the World Bank scheme. But why can't we use that scheme along with the contribution that our people are willing to make and the contribution that our State Government is willing to make? So, I would invite the hon. Minister on behalf of Ahmedabad and on behalf of our people to come and sit down with people from our industrial estate. Let us make this a model. Let us solve the problem of the 'Khari Anikut?'. We know that that effluent has to go to sea and Khambat is in a direct line from Ahmedabad, just as the crow flies. The resolution of the problem is known in terms of engineering, but it is the kind of covering-the-last-mile that is required. The resources are there. The organisation are there. But unless the Ministry takes the initiative, nothing will get done. I know, the Ministry may say that it is the responsibility of the State Government and they will do it. I know all that. I have been a former Minister of Planning. But unless the Centre takes the initiative on this kind of problems, I don't see these problem being resolved at all. So, I would say, let us make the 'Khari Anikut' a model because it is involved in economic growth, it is one of

the fastest growing industrial regions in India. There are other examples. The Ecology Commission of Gujarat has developed such projects for Hajira and Pipavar and other areas of my State. But, at least, let us make a beginning with one, because I see this as doable. There is absolutely no reason apart from the difficulties which we create ourselves, that in the next monsoon there should be any more deaths or any more women should be hurt with chemical effluents or little children should be hurt with chemical effluents, when the water get into their homes, because the process of industrialisation creates this problem. So, I am suggesting that at least we should create a few models where we resolve such problems. And I am recommending Ahmedabad for completely "disinterested reasons," as an example to start with.

I think, as far as the rural problem is concerned, both the Ministry and the Planning Commission have been talking about agro-climatic mode, that the problem of soil erosion, water development, is the problem of appropriate land and water development strategies for each region, whether it is the coastal region where salinity is coming in and the mangroves have gone and the answer is a different one, or it is the Deccan plateau where 50 inches of rainfall erodes the whole slope and you need watershed development and the answer is another one, or areas which are water-logged and you want to take canals which take the water into farmers' fields and you don't have water-logging plus conjuctive uses. Now, these answers are well known. In fact, there is a plan with targets. One of the problems that I see is that the Planning Commission and the Agriculture Ministry's concept of agro-climatic regions and targets is different from that of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. What you called agro-climatic region, they don't agree with it. I would have asked the Minister, through you Chairperson, that this is a problem which should be resolved by the Planning Commission. But, the Planning Minister of the Alliance Government has said that the Planning Commission is just another Department. So, it obviously cannot play and co-ordinating role. The Minister, we know, have very great persuasive powers. so, I would ask him to resolve this problem. But, I would request one further step. Now, the time has gone to just talk about watershed development and this kind of things in the air. My recommendation for his consideration is with all the youthful energy that he brings to bear on the problem, please give us a set of identifiable targets at the level of at the most two or three districts. We don't want all these talks करना चाहिये, करना चाहिये, करना चाहिये। Now, we know that there is enough money. If you take the employment schemes; if you take the watershed schemes; if you take all the minor irrigation projects, there are a number of cases where conscientious people would have said, "Don't give us money, just give us policy support.." And with bank funds, these problems can be solved. If the Ministry of Environment and Forests is serious, then we don't want solutions of these problems in terms of two or three lakh hectares. The targets which have been prepared either by his Ministry or by the Planning Commission have been three to five million hectares a year. If India is not to become, as somebody said, a barren country, if it is going to create the new paradigm of using land and water, then you have to go annually from half a million hectares to two or three million hectares.

Madam, I would request the Ministry to please treat this problem with the urgency that it deserves. People like me keep on writing articles in the *Indian Express,* or the Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan very much talks about agro-climatic modes, sustainable development. It gives the targets. Now these things must be operationalised. Again, since like India, Gujarat is a "World within the World," we have all the soils, alluvial soil balck cotton soil red laterite soils we offer our State to you as an experiment

to start with. In fact, some work has already been done.

Some hon. Members referred to Majuli yesterday. When I was in the Planning Commission, we had prepared a model study for Majuli, a model for treating Majuli as a part of great river, a hydraulic model. There is a socio-economic benchmark done, but these things have to be put together into a plan and this is what I am asking, operational planning at the level, at the most two or three districts, preferably in every State, and the Panchayati Raj agencies implement it. The other thing is, in these plans, clearly the carrying capacity of land for these areas must be indicated; otherwise, there is no point in doing this kind of planning and what is to be stopped and what is to be encouraged.

Madam, the other thing which I would recommend to the Minister is that we should take a more active stand on this in the rest of the world. the Stockholm Conference was India's. "Poverty is the great polluter" was Indira Gandhi's. The man who wrote it was my predecessor. In December, 1974, when I went as Adviser, Perspective Planning, I knew the file which was being handled by Pitamber Pant. "Population and development has to go together" was India's because we played a co-ordinating role. At Rio, we didn't. I was involved in Rio as a Special Adviser to the Secretary General of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, but in an informal capacity. Among the thirty leading people who gave the Hague Decalration, an Indian was there, but what about our Government? We had no role to play at the Emission Conference in Tokyo last year. Unless we bring our act together, we are not being able to influence the international debate, and this is a trageic thing. It is important because you are talking about money; you are talking about the working paradigm; you are talking about this to the people who keep on giving you lectures these days which is most unfair because there is a lot of good work happening within this country. I think this country has to put across this strength. We must say it is a country which tries to actively involve its people and its organisations in the solution of fundamental problems. It was only because of our informal role at the Hague declaration before Rio, of which I was a signatory, that you see a statement on Rajiv Gandhi's planet tax. It is there if you see the record. For the first time we talked about other contributions of Rajiv Gandhi on agri-climatic planning. Agro-climatic planning in India now cuts across politics because the BJP's election manifesto also talks about this. Congress also talks about this. Therefore, we must project these synergies of ours on the international Plane. If you read the Hague declaration, Ignorancy such brings out this contribution we made on both Planet tax and agro-climatic planning—agenda items 19, 20 and 21 to the Hague symposium. We give it but not officially.

This I say with a certain amount of sadness. Recently we had a draft National Rehabilitation Policy. I was asked to inaugurate it in a meeting of our National Academy at Mussorie. I read a document which was the Morse Commission's report given by the World Bank called an Independent Review. A Commission was set up under Bradford Morse by the World Bank on reviewing the Narmada project. Its chapter on tribals is a complete affront to this nation and not a single person brought this out. Bradford Morse was a Democratic Congressman from the U.S., who later on became the UNDP Chief. Of course, I do not blame him because he was having terminal cancer when he was writing this report and it was his other people who wrote all this. The first line of this report misquotes Nehru. Why had they to misquotes Nehru? They could have quoted President Truman. After all, the U.S. has built far more dams than India has and its percentage of dam-failure is more than India's. It goes on to make statements which are truly offensive and it virtually says that tribals in India for one thing, do not belong to the Hindu religion; during the Freedom Movement,

attempts were made to compromise tribals as a part of the Freedom Movement. This is about a people who have a history, the British hanged tribal Rajas, who were a part of the Freedom Movement in Gujarat. Their Model is their aborigines, by India is a different society. It's a society where you have the *bhakti* movement, where Scheduled Caste leaders and tribal leaders were a part of—I would call religious and cultural syndrome. I would quote this because this is so offensive and I would like to request my dear hon. friend, Mr. Mnister, through you, to please raise this issue. We are told, on page 67 of this document; "Dr. Padel told us, "Since the Forties there has been a tendency in some sections of Hindu society to claim tribal people as just a poorly integrated part of the mainstream culture of India." They go on to revile a great Indian social anthoropologist. The words they use again: "His arguments have their place in India's nationalist movement. Mr. Ghurey sought to avoid emphasis on tribal indigenous status that could appear politically divisive." What is this? Our Freedom Movement, the heart of our development process is available for anybody to revile. And I would like to say that in the International Commission on Large Dams a Chines was there, I know him because he was an expert advisor to the Mekong River Commission when they did their long term plan, they invited me and he was there too. Because of my Indian experience, I too was there. He was there from China. He is the man who planned Three Gorges projects. He was the chinese representative. We have sent people to a commission on large dams, which are explicitly against dams. Why? And what is the responsibility of the Government in all this? Now we have had to send separately requests saying please, if such a thing happens from Gujarat we would also be consulted. Ours is a people's movement. They should also be consulted. So, please, Mr. Minister, in those environmental issues if you swear by the Morse Commission, then you have to explain to us as to what their stand is on such an absolutely divisive and wrong issue. I must say...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Member whether they are appointed by the Government or it is done *suo motu* by the international agencies. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: I would request the hon. Minister to look into this and tell us as to what is happening. I think these are very serious matters. It has to be made very clear...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Madam, I would like to request the Member the he should give those names....*(Interruptions)*... Can he mention those names? ...*(Interruptions)*...I would like to know whether it has been done by the Government or it is done ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: Madam, they are well-known people and I am sure the Government will be able to ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Would you like to say something with regard to those names?...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: L.C. Jain and Medha Patekar ...*(Interruptions)*... final point is that the Advanced Irrigation Benefits Programme this year has been removed from the Central sector and it has been shifted to the State Plan. Now, again I would like to submit for the consideration of the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE) : Please conclude now because there are many speakers ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: Madam, this is my last sentence. In the AIBP there are many projects under which canals were being constructed. In Gujarat, for example, an amount of Rs. 300 crores was meant for constructing canals in the Narmada Project. We are proud of the fact that our canals are virtually ahead of the dams and this is the way it should be because delivery system should be ready. In many of these projects this is the way and if you leave it to the States and it is a part of general borrowing, then what is going to happen is that this focus will be taken away. The Finance Department of the State Govt. will spend the money on pay revision. He will be left with the problem of water logging and tail-enders for five years from now. This is a very serious issue because when he looks into the agro-climatic plan, we will see that whenever an Indian farmer been asked as to what his highest priority is if he is in a canal area. He would say, "Where is the canal and bring that water to my field?" The agro-climatic project has a target of 40 million hectares of completion of canals to the field and over a period eight million hectares a year. This is what is to be done. I would request the hon. Minister to look into this problem very seriously and particularly the Sardar Sarovar Project where we have given Rs.300 crores in the last two years for completing the canal system. That money must be restored to us. Thank you.

श्री रामजीलाल (हरियाणा): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम दो दिन से पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के कार्यकरण पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं। मैं भी इस के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहूंगा। महोदय, वन संरक्षण अधिनियम 1980 के प्रावधानों के अन्तर्गत वन भूमि को गैर-वन भूमि में बदले जाने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार की अनुमति लेनी पड़ती है। मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हैं। 1980 में यह कानून बना था कि यदि किसी वन भूमि को गैर-वन भूमि में बदलना पड़े तो उसके लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार की मंजूरी लेनी पड़ेगी। यह अधिनियम है। लेकिन, मंत्री जी अगर यह नियम है तो 1995 के जो आंकड़े हैं उसके अनुसार 638879 एस्क्वायर किलोमीटर में आपके बन थे लेकिन 1997 में यह घटकर 633397 एस्क्वायर किलोमीटर हो गए यानी 5482 किलोमीटर बन गायब हो गए। मैं आपको यह बताना चाहता हूं कि सबसे ज्यादा जो बन घटे हैं वे मध्य प्रदेश में घटे हैं। वहां 3969 किलोमीटर घटे हैं। आंध्र प्रदेश में 3822 और महाराष्ट्र में घटे हैं 2300 एस्क्वायर किलोमीटर काटे गए हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूं मंत्री जी से कि आपने 1997-98 में 9,75,973 एस्क्वायर किलोमीटर में वन लगवाए। पौने 10 लाख के लगभग 1997-98 में लगवाए जबकि 1997 में घटकर ये 5,482 किलोमीटर कम हो गए। इसका क्या कारण है, आप बताएंगे? क्या लिखकर हमें भेजेंगे कि इसका क्या कारण है? गवर्नमेंट की, केन्द्रीय मंत्रालय की मंजूरी ली गयी या नहीं? क्यों काटे गए, यह मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं।

बजट में यह है—1997-98 में प्लान का 543.70, नान प्लान का 94.321 तो यह टोटल आपका हुआ 638.021 लेकिन यह आपका जो बाद में कम हो गया है 440.0 प्लान का और 101.13 नान प्लान का तो यह 541.13 खर्च हुआ। 96.89 करोड़ का कम खर्च हुआ। फिर भी 1998-99 में आपको बजट मिल रहा है प्लान का 654.09 और नान प्लान का 115.50, टोटल 769.59 करोड़। मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि आपको इतना बजट मिलेगा। हमें तजुर्बा है गांवों का। हमें राज्यों का पता है। जब यह बजट आपको मिलता है, यह दूसरी राज्य सरकारों को जाता है, जो प्लांटेशन करती हैं सरकारें, बोगस प्लांटेशन करके वे दिखाती हैं कि हपने इतनी प्लांटेशन कर दी। वह भी मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि 1997-98 में आपने क्या प्लांटेशन की। 1997-98 में टोटल पौधा वितरण निजी भूमि पर जो आपने फिगर्स दिखाई है वह 11,166.10 किलोमीटर है। दूसरे क्षेत्र, वन भूमि सहित सार्वजनिक भूमि पर 11,46,800 किलोमीटर आपने दिखाया है। इसमें जो लगे हैं वह 9,75,973.78 है। महोदया, इतने पेड़ लग चुके हैं। 1997-98 में 9,75,973 में पौधों की प्लांटेशन हो गयी है, ये लगे हैं। 1998-99 में प्लांटेशन का जो इनका प्रोपोजल है वह है 11,166.10, यह निजी भूमि पर लगाएंगे और दूसरी जो वन भूमि है उसमें 11,75,000 में लगाएंगे। जैसे रामगोपाल यादव जी ने कहा था, वह ठीक है कि 25 प्रतिशत बीज छिड़कते हैं। बबूल के पेड़ के बीज देते है और वहां भेज देते है। मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी यह क्या है? यह कोई तमाशा है क्या? 1995—97 में फिगर्स दे रहे हैं कि 5 हजार कुछ घटे हैं और 1997-98 में दे रहे है कि हमने 10 लाख में पेड़ लगा दिए। तो क्या वे जंगलात में नहीं

आते है? मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं कि वे जंगलात कहां गए? आप हमें पूरे फिगर्स देंगे?

मैडम, राजस्थान के माननीय सदस्य यहां बैठे होंगे। राजस्थान में स्वतंत्र भारत से पहले हमारे रजवाड़े होते थे, अलग-अलग स्टेट्स होती थीं। राजस्थान में जोधपुर राज्य की एक घटना है जिसे सुनकर रोंगटे खड़े हो जाते हैं। राजस्थानी भाई उसको जानते हैं, राजस्थान के सदस्य जानते हैं। महोदया, वहां के राजा ने बिल्डिंग आदि कुछ करने के लिए पेड़ काटने का हुक्म कर दिया कि वे पेड़ काटकर लाओ। वहां पर बिश्नोई धर्म है। सारे देश में भी है। महोदया, आप बिश्नोई धर्म को जानती हैं। वहां बिश्नोई धर्म के लोगों ने प्रोटेस्ट किया। प्रोटेस्ट किया कि हम दरख्त नहीं काटने देंगे। सरकार नहीं मानी। ऐसा आपको इतिहास में, संसार में कोई दूसरा उदाहरण नहीं मिलेगा। ज्यों ही सरकार के आदमी ने एक खेजड़ी को—जिसे जांडी कहते हैं हमारे यहां, खेजड़ी भी कहते हैं—एक खेजड़ी दरख्त को काटा तो बिश्नोई धर्म के लोग इकट्ठे हो गए और एक आदमी को धड़ से अलग कर दिया गया। इस तरह से महिलाएं भी आईं इसके अंदर। पुरुष भी आए। इस तरह से यह चलता रहा। 363 आदमी और महिलाएं जब शहीद हो गयी तब राजा को पता लगा कि बहुत अनर्थ हो रहा है। तब राजा ने आकर माफी मांगी। आज जोधपुर के पास वह खेजड़ी का गांव का है। वह मशहूर है। राजस्थान के माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं। उस जमाने में वृक्ष लगाना लोग अपना धर्म समझते थे और वृक्ष लगाते थे। इस तरह वृक्ष लगाने के लिए ही राजस्थान के बिश्नोई धर्म के लोग शहीद हुए। आज क्या हमारा यही धर्म है? हम वैसे ही पौने दस लाख पौधे दिखा देते हैं, प्लांटेशन दिखा देते हैं। क्या हमारा यही धर्म रह गया है? सरकारी आंकड़े हैं, इसलिए हमें आगे दे दिए। इसी बात की तो मैं पूरी पुष्टि चाहता हूं। अभी नहीं तो बाद में लिख कर भेजिए कि इसके क्या कारण हैं। पांच हजार वन घट गए और अगले साल दस लाख पौधे लगाए गए। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं। इसी के लिए बिश्नोई समुदाय ने बलिदान दिए और योगदान दिया। सरकार प्रकृति संरक्षण के प्रति बिश्नोई समुदाय के योगदान को मान्यता देने और मरुभूमि पर्यावरण के बारे में अध्ययन को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए मंत्रालय ने जोधपुर विश्वविद्यालय में मरुभूमि पर्यावरण फैलोशिप शुरू की है। मेरा कहने का तात्पर्य यह है कि आज हम सरकार पर निर्भर करते हैं और सरकार के सारे आंकड़े असत्य आते हैं, जिससे आज देश में तबाही मची हुई है। महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा और कहना चाहूंगा कि अकेली सरकार कुछ नहीं कर सकती। आपके महकमे वाले क्या करते हैं? कभी आपने सेंटर वालों ने, केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों को जा कर देखा है कि वे क्या कर रहे हैं? जैसे यादव जी कह रहे थे कि यदि हमारा किसान कहीं अपना डंगर, अपनी कोई भैंस नहर पर पानी पिलाने के लिए ले जाता है तो उसका चालान कर देते हैं। कहते हैं कि पौधे तोड़ दिए। पौधे हों तो तोड़े। ऐसे ही चालान कर देते हैं। कहा जाता है कि पौधे खराब हो गए। सड़कों पर साइड में पौधे लगते हैं, पौधे लगा कर प्लांटेशन करते हैं। यदि किसी का डंगर इधर से उधर हो गया तो फौरन चालान कर देते हैं इससे लोगों में बड़ा भारी रोष है। झूठी प्लांटेशन करते हैं और किसानों के चालान करते हैं। इससे बड़ा भारी अनरेस्ट है। लोगों ने अब इस बात को छोड़ दिया है। पहले वे प्लांटेशन करना और वृक्ष लगाना अपना धर्म समझते थे। लोगों का ध्यान अब उधर से हट गया है और वे सरकार से नाराज़ होकर कोई प्लांटेशन नहीं कर रहे हैं।

महोदया, मैं आपके द्वारा प्रार्थना कर रहा हूं मंत्री जी से कि गांव के लोगों को यदि वे विश्वास में लें तो वृक्ष लगाने में वे काफी हमारी सहायता कर सकते हैं और वृक्षों के बचाने में भी सहायता कर सकते हैं। मेरी प्रार्थना है कि इधर आप अवश्य ध्यान दें। यह काफी महत्वपूर्ण महकमा है। आपकी योजनाओं, कार्यक्रमों नीतियों और कानून के बार में अवश्य लोगों को जानकारी होनी चाहिए। प्रचार-प्रसार द्वारा जानकारी उपलब्ध कराना अपने में एक ताकत है। गांव वालों को पूरी जानकारी मिलनी चाहिए। उनके अधिकार कम है और जानकारी की कमी है। इसकी वजह से भ्रष्टाचार हो रहा है। सरकार की दूसरी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका होगी पर्यावरण की शिक्षा और उसके महत्व के बारे में लोगों को बतलाये जाने के संबंध में, जिसके लिए प्रचार-प्रसार की बहुत आवश्यकता है। सरकार का तीसरा काम होगा प्रशिक्षण और तकनीकी सहायता का उपलब्ध कराया जाना। गांव के लोग भी पर्यावरण के बारे में सही योजना बना सकते हैं तभी जब वे शिक्षित हों। इसलिए समता और पर्यावरण संवेदना जैसे मूल्यों को जनमानस की चेतना का अंग बनाना होगा। सरकार की चौथी भूमिका ऐसी संस्थाओं के निर्माण में होनी चाहिए जो पर्यावरण और समाज की दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण हों। महोदया, सूखे के दिनों में पेड़ों का उपयोग जानवरों के चारे के लिए होता है। राजस्थान में ही नहीं दूसरी जगहों में भी किसान बंजर भूमि में दरख्त लगाते हैं, वृक्ष लगाते हैं ताकि जब कभी अकाल पड़ जाए तो उससे चारा भी मिल सके। इसके

लिए सरकार को उनकी मदद करनी चाहिए, उन्हें सहायता देनी चाहिए ताकि वे उसमें कुछ कर सकें।

महोदया, मैं पर्यावरण के बारे में यह भी कहना चाहूंगा। हमारे यहां जनसंख्या तेजी से बढ़ रही है, शहरीकरण और बड़ी संख्या में कृषि आधारित उद्योगों के होने से हमारे देश में पर्यावरण को बहुत क्षति पहुंची है। 76 मिलियन हेक्टेयर भूमि पर फैले वन भी कुल भूगोलिक क्षेत्र के 33 परसेंट पर के क्षेत्र के लिए, हमारे 66 परसेंट भू-भाग पर वन रखने के राष्ट्रीय मापदंड से काफी कम है।

महोदया, जब हम देश का विकास करेंगे, देश में इंडस्ट्रीज लगाएंगे और दूसरे काम होंगे तो पर्यावरण का प्रदूषण जरूर होगा और आज इन को रोकने के लिए जो तरीके अपनाए गए हैं, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आजकल पेट्रोल पंपों पर पॉल्यूशन की जांच होती है। इस के लिए जगह-जगह बोर्ड लगाए गए हैं। मैं ने सुना है कि वहां से गाड़ी वाले वैसे ही सर्टिफिकेट ले आते हैं कि हमारी गाड़ी प्रदूषण नहीं कर रही है। इस तरह के हथकंडे अपनाए जाते हैं तो प्रदूषण खत्म नहीं होगा।

उपसभा अध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): — रामजीलाल जी, प्लीज कंक्लूड।

श्री रामजीलाल: जब तक ईमानदारी से काम नहीं होगा, प्रदूषण खत्म नहीं होगा। मैडम, मैं बताना चाहता हूं प्रदूषण से कैंसर, दमा और अस्थमा जैसी बीमारियां हो रही हैं। बताया जाता है कि दिल्ली में रोजाना एक घंटे में इन बीमारियों से एक आदमी मर रहा है। तो इन पर रोक लगाने के लिए पर्यावरण को सुधारना होगा।

महोदया, जीवन रक्षा के संबंध में एक फार्मूला है, आज एक कहावत है कि, "जीवन का श्रृंगार वृक्ष है और जीवन का आधार वृक्ष है। जब तक हम इस बात को नहीं समझेंगे, वृक्षों की संख्या में बढ़ोतरी नहीं होगी और लोगों का रुझान उस ओर नहीं जाएगा। इसलिए हमें पर्यावरण सुरक्षा और वनों के सुधार के लिए लगातार प्रयास करते रहने की आवश्यकता है। पुराने जमाने में लोग पेड़ों की बड़ी सेवा करते थे। बंजर भूमि जहां-कहीं पड़ी होती थी, उसे किसानों को देकर उन पर पेड़ लगाए जाते थे क्योंकि पेड़ लगाने से उस भूमि में भी जंगल बन जाते हैं। महोदया, मैं ज्यादा समय न लेते हुए आप के माध्यम से सरकार से कहना चाहूंगा कि उसे रेडियो, दूरदर्शन और संचार माध्यमों द्वारा ही नहीं बल्कि दूसरे तरीकों से भी ऐसे तंत्र विकसित करने चाहिए और गांव-गांव तक उन्हें पहुंचाने होंगे और पर्यावरण शिक्षा, उस के महत्व और उस के प्रसार के बारे में लोगों को अवगत कराना होगा क्योंकि सरकार की इस में बड़ी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका होती है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): रामजीलाल जी आप ने बहुत समय ले लिया। आप की पार्टी का जो टाइम है, उस से भी ज्यादा समय आप ने ले लिया है जबकि और भी लोग बोलने वाले हैं।

श्री रामजीलाल: मैडम, हमारी डिप्टी-चैयरमेन साहब कह रही थीं कि बड़ी मछली छोटी मछली को खा जाती है। जब कभी मौका मिलता है तो पहले वाले टाइम ज्यादा ले लेते हैं। मैं आप को बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूं और माननीय मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करता हूं कि मैं ने जो बातें कही हैं, जो आंकड़े दिए हैं, वह इस सदन में आने चाहिए। ये आप के एनुवल रिपोर्ट में पेज नंबर 33-34 पर हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): मंत्री जी, आप बातों में लगे हुए हैं। सदस्य जी ने जो बातें कहीं हैं, उन का जवाब आप अपने वक्तव्य में जरूर दीजिएगा।

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: मैडम, मेरा एक निवेदन है कि इन का नाम रामजीलाल है, ये राम जी हैं। ये राज्य सभा में है तो 10-20 मिनिट बोले हैं अगर कहीं वनवास में होते तो 14 बरस तक बोलते। ये राम जी हैं और वन पर बोल रहे थे।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Shri Durpad Borgohain. Mr. Borgohain, your party has only eight minutes. Please keep that in mind.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN (Assam): Madam Vicce-Chairman, thank you for giving me time to say a few words on this very important subject.

As we all know, this is not a problem peculiar to our country alone. This problem is confronting the whole world today.

Madam, as per the national standard, thirty-three per cent of the total land area should be under forest cover. But, according to the statistices, we find that, exccepting a few States, the States in the North-Eastern Region, in the other States of our country, the forest cover is far below the national standard. As far as the North-Eastern Region is concerned, excepting Assam, in the other States, the

forest cover is more than thirty-three per cent. In the case of Assam, it is less than thirty-three per cent: it is only thirty per cent. In certain States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the two big States, the forest cover is very, very less.

[5 P.M.]

We see that only 1.5 to 2 per cent of the land is covered with forests in Delhi. So, the environmental position in the country is very much serious.

I want to know how the Ministry of Environment and Forests will react to this position. When the pollution and the environmental position is Delhi were very much serious, the Supreme Court had to take some decision. I want to know from the Ministry what it has done on the Supreme Court verdict. The Government should take this alarming situation very seriously, and it should use all its resources to bring 33 per cent of the area under forests according to the norm. If the Government is unable to do that, perhaps, the pollution situation and the ecological situation cannot improve.

I want to speak about the North-Eastern region, particularly about Assam. As you all know, the highest rainfall in the world is reported in this region. Mawsynram, a village of Meghalays records the highest rainfall every year. It is due to the South-West monsoon and also due to the heavy forests of this region that there is the highest rainfall in the region.

The water resources are very much important. The water resources can be utilised for development of industries and for generation of power. Water is very much useful, It is highly necessary for agriculture. The climate and the ecology are controlled by rainfall also. These help human habitation in this region.

But, some wrong actions have been taken in regard to the forests in this region. There has been senseless felling of trees. The senseless felling of trees and senseless cutting of hills has lead to some bad effects on the ecology of this region. It has brought bad effects on the rainfall also. Because of the wrong actions, the rainfall is going to be erratice in this region. The rainfall normally comes to this region immediately. It continues up to mid-October. But, due to the deforestation, some parts of this region have a heavy rainfall, while there is drought also in some other parts. You know that there are floods in Assam, which create havoc. But, at the same time, there is brought also in some parts of this region. This erratic behaviour is due to the wrongful activity against the forests in this part.

So, I ask of the Ministry of Environment and Forests to take this phenomenon very seriously and create the correct ecological position there.

Deforestation should be avoided. It should be rather banned. On the other hand Brahmaputra should be harnessed so that we can get good results.

Due to unplanned industrial development, industries also bring in some polution causing loss to crops, cattle and affecting human lives. The rivers in which the industrial wastage is thrown get polluted. When water of such rivers is used, it affects the people very badly causing various types of disease.

Open-cast mining also brings in some bad environmental effect. They cause several types of natural effects. Even fish are destroyed. Such a position has been reported from the Brahmaputra at Guwahati, the major city of the region.

In Upper Assam, ONGC units and oil-fields are also creating pollution. They are affecing crops, particularly the paddy fields.

To avoid such pollution all sorts of precautions should be taken by the Government. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take a serious note of the points I have made and take necessary action.

DR. RANBIR SINGH (UTTAR PRADESH): Madam, I would like to state the sad and gloomy picture of these

two very important departments— the Department of Environment and the Department of Forests.

India has a forest policy since 1894. It was revised in 1952 and again in 1988. The main Plans of the policy is protection, conservation and development of forests. The main aims of the policy are maintenance of environmental stability, conservation of natural heritage; check on soil erosion and denudation in catchment areas, rivers, lake and reservoirs; check on extension of sand dunes in desert areas of Rajasthan and along coastal tracts; substantial increase in forest tree count through massive afforestation and social forestry programmes; steps to meet requirement of fuel wood, fodder, manure, forest produce etc.; increase in productivity of forests to meet the national need; encouragement of efficient utilisation of forest prqduce and optimum substitution of wood; steps to create massive people's movement with involvement of women to achieve the object and minimise pressure on existing forests. In order to operationalise the National Forest Policy of 1988, a National Forestry Action Programme is being prepared. As part of this exercise, State Forestry Action Programmes are also being prepared for each State of the country. Under the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, prior approval of the Central Government is required to be taken for diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes. Since that time, the rate of diversion of forest land has come down to around 25,000 hectares per annum from 1.43 lakh hectares per annum, before 1980. About 25,000 hectares of land is being diverted from forest purposes to non-forest purposes every year; I think, this is too much. Forests are renewable source and they contribute substantially to economic development. They play a major role in enhancing the quality of environment. According to the data obtained from States and Union Territories, the country has an area of 7,52,300 sq. km. notified as forests. This is about 23 per cent of the geographic area of the country. Of this, 4,10,100 sq. km. is classified as reserved forests, 2,15,100 sq. km. as protected forests and 1,36,000 sq. km. as unclassified forest area. The Forest Survey of India was established in 1981. According to the Forest Survey of India, the total area under actual forest cover is 6,33,400 sq. km. It is about 19.27 per cent of the total geographic area of the country. About 11.17 per cent of this is dense forest and 7.95 per cent is open forest. In dense forest the crown density is over 40 per cent. The crown density in open forest is between 40 per cent and 10 per cent. The mangroves is 0.15 per cent. In additon, 1.74 per cent is scrub area with crown density less than 10 per cent. The non-forest land is 78.99 per cent. The country has been losing forest cover over the years. The country has lost 507 sq. km. of forest cover between 1993 and 1995. The loss of forest cover between 1995-97 is 5482 sq. km. which appears to be rather too much. The loss of forest is due to fire of two types. One is accidental fire and the other is deliberate fire. Then, there is indiscriminate grazing by the cattle. There is a big gap in the availability and requirement of green foodder resulting in unrestricted and unlimited grazing. People burn forests for shifting cultivation. Besides some organised gangs are playing havoc with forests especially in Karnataka and Assam. It is unfortunate that the Government agencies have not been able to stop this menace. There has been a marginal increase of 180 sq. km. in dense forest between 1993 and 1995. This gain is due to regeneration of forest in abandoned shifting cultivation areas. The desired target of forest cover is 33 per cent of the geogrphic area of the country. There is a big gap between 19 per cent and 33 per cent. It is unfortunate that despite having a Forest Policy, more than one century old, the country is having slightly over half the targeted forest cover. It appears that with the present scenario, this target will never be achieved. For achieving the target, the Government has to implement the Forest Policy vigoroulsy. The laws are

to be followed strictly. Afforestation schemes involving every section of the society of the country including NGOs and women are to be made. There should be a big increase in the Government grants. Some trees like the eucalyptus and the 'jungali keekar' should be banned from planting as they spoil the land and deplete the underground water level.

Madam, I now come to the Environment Department. The picture is rather worse. Regarding environment, the Government started taking steps in the beginning of the Fourth Five-Year Plan. In 1972, the National Council of Environment Planning and Coordination was set up. In 1980, an Empowered Committee to review the existing legislative measures and administrative machinery for ensuring environmental protection and for recommending ways to strengthen it was set up. A separate Department of Environment was set up under Science and Technology in 1980 itself. In 1985, the department was upgraded to a fullfledged Ministry.

[The Vice Chairman (Shri Sanatan Bisi,) *in the Chair*]

Environmental pollution on land, in water and in air has assumed alarming proportions. Land, water and air are the basic necessities of life. Overpopulation and rapid utilization of these natural resources have given rise to polluting agents leading to health hazards. The common pollutants are deposited matter like smoke, tar, dust, etc., gases like sulphur-di-oxide, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, hydrogen sulphide, ammonia, fluorine; chemical compounds such as aldehydes, arsines, hydrogen fluorides, phosgene; metals like lead, iron, zinc and mercury; economic poisons like herbicides, pesticides and insecticides; sewage, radio-active elements, noise and heat. Ecologically undergradable pollutants are substances like DDT and aluminium cans. Bio-degradable pollutants include domestic sewage and smoke. Air pollutants are of two types--(1) gaseous and (2) particulate. Gaseous ones include carbon monoxide, sulphur-di-oxide, hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen and ozone. Particulate pollutants include oxidants, dust, fumes mist, spray and smoke. Sources of these pollutants are mainly stationary combustion, transportation and solid waste disposal.

The levels of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) have increased in Delhi from 367.9 micrograms/cubic metre in 1991 to 410.5 micrograms/cubic metre in 1995.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): आपका टाईम हो गया।

डा० रणवीर सिंह: कितना टाईम हो गया?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): आपक व पार्टी का टाईम 8 मिनट था और आप 9 मिनट बोल दिए।

डा० रणवीर सिंह: 14 मिनट एक को बोलना था। हम तो कभी बोलते ही नहीं है।

The WHO has fixed 60 micrograms/cubic metre as the annual critical limit for SPM levels. The average peak value has often reached the dangerous level of 1400 micrograms/cubic metre. In power-starved Delhi, the Government policies have encouraged large-scale use of generators which are emitting poisonous particles. The officials do not even have the information regarding the number of gensets. Public interest petitions on pollution from gensets caught the Central Pollution Control Board, the Delhi Vidyut Board and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee napping. It is mandatory to seek no-objection for generator sets from the Delhi Vidyut Board. But it has been ignored due to weak enforcement. While 1,50,000 diesel generator sets are estimated to be operating in Delhi, few have sought no-objection.

The Government has been unable to control the increase in the number of diesel vehicles. The Centre for Science and Environment officials admit that the prospects of rising trend in diesel vehicles are dangerous. In Delhi, the three thermal power plants are the worst offenders

and are spewing 30,000 tonnes of SPM per day, which is equal to 10,000 polluting units in a year. The Centre for Science and Environment study finds that while the air pollution control devices, such as electro static precipitants, have been installed in those plants, they are not properly used or their efficiency is doubtful. Delhi is worst hit by the air pollution and motor vehicles account for 65 per cent of it, while in Mumbai, vehicles contribute 52 per cent of it. More than 80 per cent of carbon monoxide in the air is produced by vehicles. The CSE study catgorically states that vehicular pollution is a major killer in India today. In Delhi, the incidence of respiratory diseases is twelve times higher than in the rest of the country. In Calcutta, an alarming increase in cancer cases is reported due to bad air. A major source of air pollution are vehicles, thermal power plants and industrial units. The air pollution from the industrial units come to 44 per cent of the poisonous air particles in the capital. Despite orders from the Supreme Court to close down or relocate the polluting units in 1993, more than 12,000 additional units have sprouted in the city between 1990—94. The CSE report reveals that though they were officially closed down in 1996, clandestine industrial operations are still continuing. According to the report, the situation in the smaller cities like Pune, Bhopal and Agra is no better. The CPCB claims that the situation in Agra is better but the CSE report finds no evidence of it. It categorically states that the emission from 70,000 generator sets, increasing number of three-wheelers running on diesel and emission from the Mathura Oil Refinery are major source of high levels of SPM in Agra. In Pune, one of the cleanest cities in the country, the SPM levels are increasing due to scooters with two-stroke engines. The Government has been unable to reduce high sulphur in diesel. In Western countries, the permissible sulphur content in diesel is 0.05 per cent. But the Indian Government is still proposing to reduce the sulphur content from 1 to 0.25 per cent by 2000 A.D. The CSE study reveals the dangers of adulterated fuel. In Bhopal, 90 per cent of petrol and diesel dealers sell adulterated fuel. A huge quantity of kerosene is mixed with petrol and diesel which increases the toxic emission level. The data provided by the CPCB shows that air pollution kills a person every hour in Delhi. An estimated 51,779 Indians die every year because of it, 26 million peoples are hospitalised. In Delhi, 9859 people die prematurely every year because of poor quality of air. The CSE study shows that these premature deaths cost the exchequer Rs. 4500 crores annually. The monetary losses due to sickness alone are of the order of Rs. 160 crores. The Director, CSE, says that there has been a 28 per cent increase in the air pollution-related deaths over a period of four years, that is from 1991—95. 10,647 people have died in Calcutta, 9,859 people have died in Delhi, 7023 people have died in Mumbai, 3,639 people have died in Kanpur and 3006 people have died in Ahmedabad. Along with this, other major cities account for 66 per cent of the total premature deaths in India. The CSE study has found that a high level of SPM, laden with toxic chemicals, is responsible for these deaths.

To protect environment, I would like to give a few suggestions. We need a strong machinery to implement the laws. People responsible for environmental management must be sensitized to the needs for protecting it if the country is to be saved from the impending ecological disaster. It must be obligatory for factories to have effluent treatment plants so that they do not discharge polluted water. This is being flouted on a very large scale.

There are three rivers passing through Muzaffarnagar from where I come. All the three are thoroughly polluted so much so that the water is rendered useless for human and animal consumption. This has been caused by discharge of

effluents from some factories. As a result, pressure has increased on underground water. The underground water level is going down very rapidly.

Public transport system is very weak. As a result, people use their individual vehicles, adding to pollution.

Accumulated garbage is adding to pollution in a big way. Slums and unplanned encroachements are also hazards.

Indiscriminate use of herbicides, insecticides and pesticides also polluted water, land, air, our vegetables and fruits and even the grains we consume.

Hazardous wastes are being indiscriminately imported. Zinc waste is one example. Similarly, other wastes are also there.

Poaching should also be stopped completely. Sir, I thank you for the time given to me.

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. First of all, I am pleased to inform this august House that apart from the Government programme, my party leader and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar, has instructed us, the party cadres, rank and file, to raise more than 75 lakhs of sapplings in every nook and corner of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is a model State and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is encouraging tree plantation to protect against deforestation. Forests are renewable sources and they contribute substaintially to economic development. Forests play a maojr role in enhancing the quality of environment. The country has an area of 752 lakh hectares as notified forest area out of which 401 lakh hectares is classified as reserved and 215 lakh hectares as protected forest area, and unclassified forest area is spread over 131 lakh hectares. Roughly 19.45 per cent of the total geographical area of the country is actually the forest area. Our country is having its Forest Policy from 1894; it was first reviewed in 1952 and it was again reviewed in 1988. We are having a specific policy with regard to forests, i.e. (i) maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and restoration of ecological balance; (ii) conservation of natural heritage; (iii) check on soil erosion and denudation and catchment of rivers, lakes and reservoirs and (iv) check on extension of sand-dunes in the desert of Rajasthan and along with coastal tracks. Like this, we are having more than ten forest policies for improvement of the forest property. Apart from that, the forest area is destroyed by trespassers, encroachers and others. Sir, one of the major factors responsible for destruction of forests is fire. In our country most of the fire accidents are man-made and deliberate and only on rare occasions there is fire due to accident. Causes of fire accidents are grazing, flower collection, leaf collection and also poaching. I would like to suggest the following steps to reduce fire accidents in India. First of all, there is a need for developing the fire fighting system. Secondly, there is need for establishment of watch towers and thirdly, more persons should be recruited as watchers and forest officers.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu wrote a letter to the Government of India and also sent an estimate of Rs. 12.65 crores for modernising botanical gardens in Tamil Nadu. But our request has not been acceded to by the Government of India. In spite of so many requests made by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India has not agreed to give Rs. 12.65 crores to Tamil Nadu.

Scientists and professors have noted down some valuable suggestions which were made for preserving the forest area. So far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, it is a model State in dealing with the environment management under the leadership of Dr. Kalaignar. The Tamil Nadu Government is issuing show cause notices without any discrimination to so many factories which are violating the pollution norms.

I would like to quote some figures. As per the Supreme Court Order, 662 tanneries, 1,668 textile units and 90 hotels have been closed. The Government of Tamil Nadu is very keen to protect environment and forests.

Sir, our colleague, Shrimati Shabana Azmi, has been doing a lot of work for slum-dwellers. She is fully devoted to the cause of slum-dwellers. She has sacrificed her whole life for slum-dwellers. Sir, I would request her to do something for development of forests. This is my request to Shrimati Shabana Azmi. I am having high hopes of her. I request her to render her good services for the betterment of slum dwellers as well as for the development of forest. Thank you.

*SHRI O.S. MANIAN (Tamilnadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the working of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Sir, several Resolutions regarding pollution control were adopted at the Earth Summit held at Rio in 1992. One of the Resolutions, called upon the nations, particularly industrialised nations, to reduce the greenhouse gas emission level in a time frame. Since, it concerns the entire globe, India should have taken initiative to make these countries see reason and reduce gas emission. But India has not yet taken the initiative.

I say this because, the United States has imposed sanction against India because of our nuclear experiment. But U.S.A. is not willing to implement the Resolutions adopted at the Rio conference. U.S.A. is the biggest pollutor in the entire world. The per capita gas emission in USA is 5.32 tons. In India it is only 0.26 tons. Countries like Australia, Canada and Germany have agreed to reduce the greennouse gas emission by 15% by the year 2010. But USA is not prepared to accept even such proposal. Their attitude is very strange and is fraught with danger for the globe. The population of U.S.A. is only 5% of the world population. But greenhouse gas emission is 25% of the total gas emission of the world. Yet even, USA is adamant and is unwilling to abide by Rio Resolution. India should expose USA in the internatinal forum. Its double standard should be brought to the notice of the world. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will take notice of this.

Sir, there is a vital reason for the refusal of U.S.A. to reduce greenhouse gas emission. Since industries are the major source of gas emission, any decision to reduce gas emission will affect the industries. Installing the necessary pollution control devices would prove very expensive. Under such conditions, the industrialists would flee USA and would prefer to invest in developing nations like India, where the emission level is much below the permissible limit. It is because of this fear that USA is refusing to abide by Rio Resolution. I hope the Government will do its best to expose USA.

Sir, in 1997-98, Rs. 638.2 crore was allocated for the Ministry of Environment and Forests. But the revised estimate was about 100 crore rupees less. I don't know why this happended. This year the allocation is even more. But I don't know how much they are really going to spend, and what would be the revised estimate. The Government should realise that more fund is needed for schemes like afforestation. The forest area in some states is very low. For example, the forest area in Delhi is 2.8%, Haryana 3.9%, Punjab 5.5%, Gujarat 9.9% West Bengal 13.5%, Bihar 16.3%, Tamilnadu 17.5%, and U.P. 17.5%. This is the percentage of forest cover we have. Though we ought to have about 33% of forest area, many states have just half of it and some states have very low percentage of forest cover. I request the Hon'ble Minister to tell the House, as to how these states will achieve 33% forest area.

*English Transtalion of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

The Vice-Chairman (Miss Saroj Khaparde) *in the Chair*

Madam, Hon'ble Member Shri V.P. Duraisamy said that Tamilnadu is the model state in the country in pollution control. I don't know on what basis he said so. It is a fact that all the cities in the country are polluted. Even the rivers running close to these cities are polluted. The Koovam river in Chennai is highly polluted. Due to population explosion, all the major cities and rivers have become polluted. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to draw a scheme to contain pollution in these cities and rivers.

Madam, I wish to point out the neglect of rivers in South India. Ganga Action Plan, and Yamuna Action Plan are north specific. Even the National Rivers Conservation Plan has not concentrated on southern rivers. It is not that the rivers in the south are not polluted. So, the Government should formulate schemes for cleaning up the rivers in the southern part of the country also. (Time bell rings)

Please give me one more minute, Madam.

A professor of mine, in a conference on Forest, once said; "100 sapplings were planted, but 101 died." Seeing us raising our eyebrows in exclamation, he said that 100 branches were cut off from a tree and they were planted. But subsequently all the 100 planted branches and also the parent tree, that is, all the 101 have died. There is an underlying message in it. Our afforestation programmes should not be like that.

It is curious to note how man's life is connected to trees and timber all through. When a child is born, it is put in a cradle made out of wood. The child grows to use wooden furnitures, and man in his last journey is carried on wooden planks. This is the kind of relation we have with the trees. Here I wish to say that, when the birth anniversaries of leaders and martyrs are observed, planting of sapplings should take place invariably. The Union and State governments should go in for planting of sapplings on such occasion.

Madam, sandalwood smuggler and poacher, the notorious Veerappan is on the rampage in the forests on Tamilnadu-Karnataka borders. He has killed hundreds of elephants for their tusks. He has also killed 64 forest and police personnel so far. Therefore, I would like to know whether the centre will help Tamilnadu and Karnataka Governments to nab Veerappan.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Manian, your one minute was over long ago. Please conclude now.

SHRI O.S. MANIAN: I am concluding, Madam,

My Hon'ble friend Mr. V.P. Duraisamy mentioned that the Government of Tamilnadu is in the forefront in planting of sapplings, in afforestation. While coming to Delhi I happened to go to Mandhaiveli in Chennai. There, I saw all the sapplings planted during the platinum jubilee of the Chief Minister have died. They all have dried up. I don't know how it happened, that too in Chennai. That is not the way to grow more trees. With these words I conclude. Thank you Madam.

SHRI C.P. TIRUNAVUKKARASU: Why is this attack unnecessarily?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): We should not attack anybody like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay.

Now, I would just like to seek cooperation from all Members and from all parties. As you know, there is an official agenda before us. After concluding this discussion, there are two more Bills which have to be passed. On this particular discussion, there are five Members more who would like to speak. My request will be if you really want to do some justice to the official Business, I think we should ask the hon. Minister to reply. Those Members who are really very keen to speak on this, should speak

on the other Bills. If you agree, I would like to request the Minister to reply.

SHRI M. P. A. SAMAD SAMADANI: Madam, so many Members from different parties have spoken on this, but our party...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): In that case, I would like to ask a couple of Members to speak, and then the Minister would reply. Do you agree to this?

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: चन्द्रेश कुमारी जी और आप कहते हैं तो दो-दो, तीन-तीन मिनट कुछ बोल लें और उसके बाद मिनिस्टर बोल लें। हम अपने मेम्बर्स को नहीं बुलवाएंगे।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I will give five-five minutes to Mr. Samadani and Mr. Sarma and five minutes to Smt. Chandresh Kumari. Is that okay?

SHRI RANGANATH MISRA: Madam, I would also like to speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Okay. Now, Smt. Chandresh Kumari.

SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI (Himachal Pradesh): Madam, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this very important Department. Forests are our national wealth, but unfortunately, these are being cut down mercilessly which is also endangering the wildlife of our country. It is also damaging our environment. I think it is of great importance to us that we should protect our national wealth and see that by protecting this we protect the people of India. It is very disturbing to learn from the 37th and 53rd Reports on Demands for Grants for the year 1996-97 and 1998-99 that for five consecutive years, the Budget which had been provided in the Plan side, could not be utilised by the Department. Every year, the Budget had lapsed and gone back. But, the non-Plan had exceeded what the Budget had provided for. This year, I find that the Ministry has put up a very ambitious Plan and has requested for Rs. 704 crores. Last year, they could only spend Rs. 405 crores and Rs. 138 crores lapsed. I do wish the Minister well and hope that he would be able to complete all the schemes which he has kept in the Budget. But, there are four main projects which have suffered in this Budget, namely, prevention and control of pollution, forest conservation, improvement of degraded forests and regeneration of forests and wildlife. I have noticed that for prevention of air pollution, the Budget which has been provided in the Plan is much less than the Budget which has been provided in the non-Plan side.

For example, in 1997-98, the Plan provided was Rs. 38 crores. Only Rs. 36 crores were spent while in the Non-Plan you have spent Rs. 54 crores. The projects are less important but the Non-Plan and salaries are more important. I would like to say, as you have noticed from your own reports, that people are dying because of air pollution in Delhi. How are you preventing it? We can take up one or two major things. First of all, we have to put more pressure on use of solar energy in place of generators. If the Minister would like to see, there is a farmhouse outside Delhi where, for the whole house electricity provided is from solar energy. They are not using any generator. This will not pollute your areas. Besides, this is also noiseless. So, there will be less noise pollution. 'We have to put more stress on the Power Ministry so that they see to it that there are less power-cuts then generators will not be required if there are less power-cuts. In that respect, there will be less pollution.

What have we done about car pollution? We have all the machinery set up to control pollution of motor vehicles under the Motor Vehicles Act.' How many cars have been stopped? How many old cars have been put off the roads? None of them. They are still going around. The whole of Delhi is getting polluted. If we want to help the people of Delhi, we have to be strict and we have to put a stop to this pollution in Delhi.

Plastic is another thing which is a great polluter. Plastic pollution can be seen throughout India. Sights of Himachal Pradesh are getting covered by plastic. Game reserves are getting polluted by plastic. Very rightly, a Member said yesterday that sewage is also getting clogged by plastic. I would request you to put a ban of use of plastic. You cannot put it up immediately because a lot of work is being done with plastic. Where you can put a stop on use of plastic is, previously wheat used to be supplied in gunny bags and cement used to be supplied in gunny tags. Why cannot we insist on certain Ministries to enforcing the reuse of gunny bags? Jute can be used in its place and in places you can use paper bags, paper bags should be used. If you do not remove this, your wildlife, your forest, your people, everywhere there will be pollution.

The most important, pollution which, I think, is taking place is in hospitals. Hospital waste is being thrown just outside hospitals. It is being picked up by crows, dogs and cats. It is being taken all around. Deadly infection is being spread. In fact, I have seen with my own eyes that your plastic syringes or needless are being picked up again by people and ragpickers are reselling them. In this way, you are spreading AIDS throughout India more than anywhere else. So, I would suggest that in every hospital there should be an incinerator installed so that all hospital waste is disposed of immediately.

I have a lot of points and I am not going to take a lot of time as the chairperson has already rung the bell. I had promised that I would speak only for five minutes. The only last point I would like to say is when we are conserving our forest, very often we remove factories and stop mining in certain areas. What we are doing is that we are harming the people who are working in those factories or mines.

I would like the Minister to look into this and make a plan that whenever they stop a factory or some other things, some employment generation scheme should be created by the Forest Department, say, growing plants, so that these people are rehabilitated. If any such scheme is put into force by the Department, those people who have been affected will be able to get some job and they will not have to starve and come on the roads. My last point is that we need to have dedication and commitment to our plans and programmes. Without dedication and commitment and without speedy implementation of the plans, we will not be able to achieve what we want to achieve and we will not be able to give a better environment and a good forest cover to this country.

Madam, I thank you once again. I have taken more time that what I should have taken. Thank you.

SHRI M.P.A. SAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Madam, I will make my observations within the time allotted. Madam, the most critical problem which is not only being faced by the nation but by the entire humanity has been subjected to a serious discussion in this House presently. Madam, the humanity is now-a-days going through a drastic experience due to imbalance in the environmental system. There are so many drastic results and I am only mentioning a few. The nuclear leakages and manufacturing industries are creating problems and chemicals disasters are taking place. There is a change in the climate. Then there is an acid rain; there is a depletion in the ozone layer which shields the surface of the earth. This is also causing damage to agriculture and the standard of agricultural produces is also related to it. So, Madam, everything is affected due to this environmental imbalance. Even our seas have been polluted due to oil slicks. The deforestation is also creating a problem. Even the water of wells, which is so important for the people, is facing the problem of pollution. Then there is soil

erosion. But the problem is that instead of solving the major problems the concerned authorities turn their attention to minor problems which are not so important. For example, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the damage that has been caused to the Taj Mahal which is one of the greatest historical monuments of this country. This is an attraction not only for the nation but for the whole humanity. On so many occasions courts have ordered the closure of certain industrial units in that area. But, still the pollution is going on. Some very serious and urgent steps are needed to be taken in this regard. We have enough resources. The problem is that there is not a clear line. A clear line has to be drawn between the use and misuse and then only can the problem of environment be tackled effectively. Another very important point to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is that the concerned authorities turn their attention to minor problems. For example, there is a law known as the Coastal Zone Regulation Act which controls construction works in the 500 metres area near the shores, whether it is a sea or a lake. In a thickly populated area, especially in our State of Kerala, Madam, our fishermen and other poor people are facing many problems due to this law. I would like to request the hon. Minister that there should be relaxation in this regard. We are just harassing the poor people and we are harassing the fishermen in the name of environment and other things. We are not ready to tackle the serious problems. We are not ready to punish the great industrialists of the nation.

[6 P.M.]

This law was even brought before a court but the tragic situation is, no solution could be found till now. I had thought of suggesting one more thing but since the same has already been made here, I am not repeating it. The topics on environment are to be made as part of educational system in the country. It should be a part of the syllabus. Necessary attention of the students is to be drawn starting from school days and college days; also of the academic community on this. We will be able to tackle the problems relating to environment only by changing the attitude of the people. There was a period when man thought that he alone was the centre of the universe and the entire universe acts according to his whims and fancies. That period has already gone. Now, the mother-earth needs respect and love from the mankind. The thoughtless actions — nuclear explosions and everything — of man are really becoming great points of attack on earth. Madam, earth does not belong to man; but man belongs to earth. That feeling has to be propagated. And also the relationship between man and earth cannot only be physical or biological. More than physical and biological, it is spiritual and aesthetic. This aesthetic relationship between man and earth is to be patronised. Madam, that sense is to be there, then only we will be able to create a good environmental atmosphere in dealing with this matter.

The other thing is, instead of being a master of nature, man should learn to become a pupil of nature. And about the old saying that man is the conqueror of nature, I would say that that period has long gone... (Time-bell rings)... Madam, I was thinking of giving some more suggestions but as I had already promised, I am just concluding my observations by quoting a *share* from poet Iqbal, who said that the time has come when instead of seeing nature, one should see oneself.

फितरत को दिखाया भी है, देखा भी है तूने।

आइना-ए-इफितरत में दिखा अपनी खुदी भी।

Man's self is to be reflected in nature. Such a glorious relationship will be the final solution for all the problems facing humanity in this regard. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma. You have to finish in five minutes.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Assam): Thank you, Madam, Vice-Chairperson, I try to co-operate. It is a fact that we could not protect or we could not get anything from what we had inherited from the British regime. During the span of 50 years of our independence, our forest cover has been declining. Even it is going down below our target of 33%. Now we are having only 19% of total forest cover. If we categorically analyse, after we took over from the British, we become too independent. We are defining our own rules. There are no nationalistic feelings in the system of education, in the minds of the people and more than that, we are trying to destroy the natural forest cover which has been existing since long before. More priority was given to deforestation rather than afforestation during this period. It is heard that from 1991 to 1996 i.e., in a span of five years, we have lost 5,000 Sq. Kms. of forest cover in the country and that needs special attention. I personally feel that the very outdated rules and regulations for protecting the forest cover, forest land, to prevent encroachment, to deal with smugglars and to deal with poachers should now be amended.

I personally feel that these rules and regulations that are there for the protection of forest cover, forest land, to prevent encroachers; to deal with smugglers and poachers, are very outdated, are too inadequate, and they need amendment. The administration during the British time was good, there was some administration, some control. But, after we became independent, there is no control on anything. We should change this law. There is still a law in Assam, if somebody gets caught for smuggling of trees, illegal cutting of trees or brings a truck-load of timber, he is fined Rs. 50. This amount of Rs. 50/- was fixed 120 years back. Who bothers? This kind of an outdated system should be changed so that we can really protect the environment and the forest.

Secondly, Madam, I would also like to draw the attention of the House, of the hon. Minister and of the officials to the serious environmental problem now being faced by the people of the North-Eastern region. The Brahmaputra river which has 35 tributaries, and the river Barag which has seven tributaries have Chinese origin. The Brahmaputra river goes into the Bay of Bengal through Assam. There is severe environmental problem because of heavy silt being carried by the rivers. All the river channels get blocked during floods because the river carries with the water heavy silt, infertile sand and soil portion. The situation in many parts of Assam is that the cultivable land is covered with infertile silt, maybe up to the extent of five feet. The cultivable land, the habitable land becomes infertile, unihabitable and the people have to shift from those areas. During a span of the last 50 years many rivers have changed their course. The river channels get diverted and most of the cultivable land gets merged with the river and the people have to shift. Not a single Centrally sponsored scheme, housing scheme, agricultural scheme or any other scheme is practically feasible or implemented in those areas because of this reversed system.

We talk of great things, that we are going in for global competition. But the people of these areas are not even confident whether their habitable land will be there or not; whether their cultivable land will be there or not; when their land will be submerged or when it will be covered with silt. This is a problem which our Government by itself cannot tackle. We should approach the international agencies. This is a very important problem and this should be dealt with scientifically. There should be a proper scientific study as to how we can

control this abnormal environmental problem.

As you know, in the biggest river island of the world, the fresh water island inhabited by 1.5 lakhs of population of Assam, that is, Majuli, 50 per cent of its land has been washed away by the river system. Now, this population of 1.5 lakhs is striving elsewhere in Assam for a habitable area. This problem should be tackled very seriously. I have formulated some of the important suggestions which can be useful for the Department. I hope that the hon. Minister and the officials will take note of this. The Supreme Court has intervened in the illegal cutting of trees, and some industries have suffered. There should be a proper review of the present system of forest inhabited by some people around the forest. There should be a specific system as to how we can control the forest habitation, habitation around the forest and within the forest and how we can evict the illegal forest encroachers. As has been pointed out by one Member, we should involve the students in afforestation programmes. We should give incentives to the students. Many schemes are there. Schemes are floated by some private companies. If the students plant trees, they would be taken care of by that particular company. After seven or eight years, it would be getting a good amount. This kind of thing should be properly propagated. The students should be encouraged to come forward and help in afforestation programmes. This way, we would be able to grow a large number of valuable trees in the habitable areas.

Secondly, Madam, there should be a specific regional plan for the North-Eastern Region. Maybe, for some other regions also. Area-wise, the environment system is different. There should be a regional plan. In the catchment area, in the hill area, wherefrom the river emerges, there should be massive aforestation. I would suggest that there should be a Regional Authority for the North-Eastern Region, which should take up... (*Interruption.*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please wind up, Dr. Sarma.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: I am giving good suggestions, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You are giving good suggestions, no doubt. Others also have given very good suggestions. But the problem is, we are running short of time.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: I will conclude, Madam.

As I was saying, there should be a Regional Authority. This authority should be entrusted with a massive plantation work. This work should be given specifically to this authority. Merely entrusting the work to the Social Forestry Department of the State Government is not going to serve any purpose. The need of the hour is to protect our environment.

Then, many of the wildlife sanctuaries are being endangered. For example, the Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam. Then there is the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary. In the Kaziranga National Park, we have the famous one-horned rhino. This wildlife sanctuary is being threatened because of erosion and some other factors. Therefore, there should be special plans for ptotection of these sanctuaries which are being threatened by erosion, etc.

Madam, there were two schemes which were suggested by the Government of Assam. One was for eco-stabilisation of the Majuli Island. With afforestation, erosion could be prevented and the island could be protected. This proposal should be taken note of by the Ministry of Environment and Forests at the Centre. Also, we must have more biodiversity programmes in the North-Eastern Region. (time bell rings) Another thing is, we must have specific plans for afforestation in the marshy land. In the North-Eastern Region, we have a lot of

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marshy land and wasteland which is remaining unutilised. We will be able to increase the forest cover if we take up an afforestation programme, on a large scale, in the marshy land and wasteland now remaining unutilised in this region.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Dr. Sarma...

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Only two more points, Madam. This Majuli Island....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Dr. Sarma, will you please listen to me? Very politely, I am asking you to conclude. I have the name of one more speaker before me. I have to complete the Business. you have to co-operate with the Chair. I do not wish to say the same thing again and again. Will you please conclude?

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: I will conclude, Madam.

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: सबसे लंबी नदी है ब्रह्मपुत्र।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): ब्रह्मपुत्र लंबी है तो इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि हम लोग लंबा चलें। समय की कमी है।

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Dr. Sarma, you can write to the Minister.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Writing will not do.

I would request the hon. Minister. The environment problem in the North-Eastern Region is different and, therefore, it should be dealt with on a different footing. As I mentioned, the international agencies like the UNDP, the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank and the Global Infrastructure Research Foundation of Japan should be approached.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Okay. Thank you.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Such agencies should be aproached to help us in protecting our environment and to have more forest cover.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Thank you, Dr. Sarma. I am sorry, I had to say every now and then 'Please conclude; please conclude'. You did give very good suggestions. Thank you. Now, Misraji, please.

SHRI RANGANATH MISRA (Orisa): Madam Vice-Chairman, law has ceased to be a regulator of human conduct. To multiply laws and get protected, or, ask for protection, is no more a possibility. I suggest that we should develop the culture of protecting nature and the forests.

I would invite the attention of the hon. Minister to Part IVA — of the constitution Fundamental Duties. The hon. Minister must take note of it. Clause (g) of article 51A says: 'protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures'.

We must develop this culture, spread it and train our children to get used to this fundamental duty. One television channel probably, should be taken by the Minister. We should not totally rely upon the Human Resource Development Ministry for educating on this. This Ministry must also share this responsibility.

Ours is a forest-based culture. The entire Indian culture and wisdom came from forests. Therefore, all care should be taken to ensure that the forests are protected and preseved.

I was a party to the Doon Valley decision which came as the first case before the Supreme Court. This Task Force was set up by us. I have been going every year to that area. I have been seeing that the barren land on account of the mining has now again grown into a forest. The Doon Valley was getting 200 inches of rain annually

when the trees were there. It was reduced to about 75 inches. The Defence College was the first one to complain about it to the Supreme Court, on the basis of which the case was registered. Now, probably, the rainfall has been restored to about 200 inches on account of the forest growng up.

When I read Geography, Chirapunji was known as the highest rainfall area of the world. For the last two or three years it has lost its position on account of the fact that the forests there have been cut down.

In 1990, we were working on making the two-wheeler not to have a petrol or a diesel engine. We had set up a Commission. Justice Saikia was its Chairman. The Transport Secretary, the Environment Secretary and two others were its Members. It had done work for more than a year. If the Minister sees the record, he will find that we had meetings with the manufactures of the two-wheelers. They had agreed that they would provide electric engines in substitution of the diesel or the petrol engines. We had almost agreed on principle that within about a year fresh registration of non-electric engine two-wheelers should not be permitted. We had persuaded two banks to agree that they would provide the exchange cost at a nominal rate of interest. That was somehow abandoned in 1992 at a half-done stage. I would request the Minister to pursue that matter. In that case, the mischief that we get from the two-wheeler in the matter of pollution would immediately stop over a period. If that is done, one of the greatest sources of pollution could be avoided.

Social forestry has been a failure. One of our colleagues mentioned about the eucalyptus tree being dropped out of it. Most of the social forests, I find, have eucalyptus only. Therefore, social forestry should be substituted by some other method or, probably, better trees should be provided, trees which will help in preserving water and bringing rains. Eucalyptus does not help in bringing rains.

I would write to the Minister. The Minister has been certified to be excellent by most of the Members. I have no personal relationship or friendship with him. I had no occasion. That is why I do not know it. But most of the Members have certified him to be excellent. I will rely upon his excellence. I will write to him. I will try to see that I am able to convince him on certain things with which I have been associated over the years.

The only thing I want to remind every Member is that our lives are in his hands. So, he must take that responsibility and ensure that by living in Delhi we do not die day by day, bit by bit. I ran away from Delhi one day before I retired on account of the fact that I thought that Delhi was not a place to live in. ....*(Interruptions)*

Here I have the option either to participate or not to participate. But, in the Court I had to stay. I left Delhi one day in advance. I left Delhi two days in advance when I retired from the Human Rights Commission.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे) : मंत्री जी, अभी आप उत्तर देंगे लेकिन उससे पहले मेरी आपसे एक रिक्वेस्ट है क्योंकि निरुपम जी ने कुछ कहा था। अगर मैं उनको समय दूं तो मुश्किल हो जाएगी। लेकिन आप अपने उत्तर में एक चीज का उत्तर जरूर दीजिएगा कि विदर्भ में झुड़पी जंगल का जो प्रोब्लम है उस प्रोब्लम की ओर किसी ने ध्यान आकर्षित नहीं किया है।

आप उसको ध्यान में रखते हुए अपने जवाब में उसके बारे में ज़रुर मेंशन करिएगा कि उसके बारे में सरकार की क्या राय है और आप क्या करने जा रहे है?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Madam, I am thankful to the Chair as well as to all the hon. Members, starting from Dr. Radhakrishna Murty and ending with the hon. Member, Shri Ranganath Misra. They have contributed a great deal in enriching my knowledge about the subject and also

giving me an agenda for action for next several years. I hope my Government will complete its five-year term in order to implement all the programmes that you have spelt out for me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Have you got any doubt?

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: मंत्री जी, आपको पता है या नहीं कि आपकी सरकार के जंगल पर जयललिता की कुल्हाड़ियां चल रही है? पहले उसे बचाईए।

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, my Ministry runs on the directions of the Supreme Court and is funded by the Parliament. So, I have to go through the directions of both the Supreme Court and the Parliament. I will definitely abide by what the hon. Member Misraji has said as well as all other Members, who have contributed in the debate. I would definitely be working towards it.

Madam, this is not a coincidence that for the first time since the Ministry was set up in 1980, in the last eighteen years, the Demands for Grants of the Ministry fo Environment and Forests have been discussed in either House of Parliament. It is a great time that my Ministry has got an opportunity to be focussed in the national perspective. I am sure that all other Ministries, who would be listening to the debate, would certainly now have more concern for environment as well as forestry issues, for the policies that need to be engrained into the national perspective.

One of the things that the hon. Members have mentioned — I am really glad to note — is that this is not an issue which should be taken on a political plan. This is one issue which we should discuss leaving behind all our political concerns and affiliations. This has been the general tone and tenor of the discussion. I am sure this will also be guiding me in terms of discharging various responsibilities.

One of the points that we should keep in mind is that the issue of environment canot be discussed in islolation. We cannot say environment is a very important subject and we just confine ourselves to it. Unless we really get into each and every aspect of the national governance, national polity/policy, it is not going to succeed. To make that change in the mind-set, in terms of bringing awareness in the mind of the people as well as changing their attitude towards this subject, the first thing that I have decided has been, from the first day I assumed the charge and the first day I addressed the Press, that we are going to bring in environment education as a compulsory subject. It should be a part of the curriculum, so that the young children of today, when they become citizens of tomorrow, will have these concerns not as part of the debate, but also a part of their thinking. That is why we have already constituted a study group and an action plan. NCERT is working on a paper to create a curriculum. We intend to submit it to hon. Education Ministers of different States, because education is a subject, which needs to be taught through them. I have also met the University Grants Commission, Chairperson. I have taken up this issue with them. So, in association with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, I am sure we will be able to bring about a major change. If we do so, I am sure many of the things that we are talking about, will happen, because people will believe that what we need to do is for the sake of actually implementing it in their day-to-day life.

Madam, the challenge is immense. Normally it happens that when we talk about undertaking a project component, it is very strongly felt that this is the only project that could solve all the ills of the country. At the same time there is another school of thought, which makes a point that if you really approve a project, the ecology is going to be damaged beyond repair. This is what is going to put such a stress on ecology, which would not even recoup in terms of whatever

costs that we are really going to provide for the project.

So, this has not been focussed sharply. But today we have seen in the debate that this issue has really been focussed. So, what is more important is the truth of a particular thing. The perceptions are different and to change these perceptions over a period of time, as we go along, we should take people into confidence. Then, policies will become transparent. I am sure that this will definitely ensure change of perceptions.

I must thank the hon. Member, Dr. Radhakrishna Murthy, who had initiated the debate on this subject. He has come out with a very good formulation. He said that wealth and poverty, both are contributories towards environmental degradation in different forms. Madam, I recollect the famous saying of our former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi when she spoke in an international summit : "Poverty is the biggest environmental degrader, but wealth also in different forms contributes to this." The formulation propounded by the hon. Member is also very good. I fully share with his view. Now, the point is how to reconcile both. This is a real challenge. The discussions that have taken place in the House have been fruitful. The formulations that will come out in future will be helpful. I hope that I will be getting support from the House to make this happen in different ways.

Madam, there have been several cases of judicial activism in this area. The hon. Member has also said about it correctly. I consider the judicial activism as an interest of the society on environmental issues. The failure of the executive is the cause of judicial activism. I think it is going to be the responsibility of my Ministry to be pro-active rather than waiting for some direction to come. So, we have taken several initiatives. I would just like to spell out one of them. The authority for pollution control in Delhi was constituted under the directions of the hon. Supreme Court. In fact, whatever authorities have been constituted so far in the country have been constituted under the directions of the Supreme Court or some of the High Courts, may be for Tamil Nadu tanneries, maybe the Dhanu Authority, maybe the Thane-Belapur Authority. Though there is a provision in the Environment and Protection Act itself, as enacted by this hon. House that such authorities can be constituted by the executive, they couldn't do it. But for the first time, *suo motu*, without any directions from any judicial authority, we have constituted an authority for the city of Mumbai. That authority is going to function very soon. I am sure we are going to create these authorities in other major cities of the country.

Dr. Alagh was concerned about pollution levels and environmental degradation in metropolitan cities. I would like to inform him that such authorities will be set up in all major cities so that the union Government can play pro-active role in terms of controlling pollution. But by doing that, we cannot ignore an important responsibility that is cast upon the State Pollution Control Boards. The Central Pollution Control Board is situated in Delhi. It is impossible and inconceivable for them to discharge all the functions and the demands that are made on them by sitting in Delhi.

One of the hon. Members made a suggestion that the responsibility of controlling pollution should not be vested with the Government of Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow. This office should be shifted to Delhi. Madam, if the Government of Uttar Pradesh cannot look after that then it is impossible and inconceivable for the Union Government to discharge its responsibility in respect of the whole country. That is why we have decided that the functioning of these authorities will be the responsibility of the State Governments. Though powers are vested with State Governments, State Pollution Control Boards will exercise those powers. This is one of the concrete steps we have

taken. I am sure this will help us in controlling pollution. Many Members have suggested a type of role to play by the Government. I am sure the Government will be able to play that role in a very effective way.

Madam, I would like to touch each and every point that has been raised by hon. Members. But due to a time-limit this is going to be a difficult task. I have been asked to adhere to the time-limit. So, I would like to take up some major issues. I can assure the hon. Members that we will look into all individual issues that have been raised here.

Madam, certain issues pertaining to forests have been raised. Let me take up the first concern, forests. It is true that our Forest policy over a period of time has been talking about 33 per cent forest cover. One-third of the entire land mass of the country will be covered by the forests. Since 1988 this has been the policy. Even earlier we have mentioned about it. But today our forest cover is hardly 19.25 per cent. The real forest cover which is crown density of 0.4 and above is only 11.73 per cent which is hardly any comparison to what we really propose to do. So, we have prepared a concrete action plan as to how we are going to attain this 33 per cent forest cover, which State should contribute how much, which district of the State should have how much forest cover. The action-plan has been drawn up. We have already completed one round of discussions with each and every Forest Minister of the country, Forest Secretaries, Principal/ Chief Conservator of Forests. I think if we can implement this plan, in the next 10 years' time, our forest cover will be definitely there up to 33 per cent, in very conceivable future.

I remember another point. Though the hon. Member, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, did not intervene in today's debate, he had put to me a very valid point during the Question Hour. The problem which we really face is the problem of degradable forest land. Madam, about 15 million hectares of forest land will be degraded and in another 15 million hectares of forest land there is no live-root stock. We have already divided. I promised the hon. Member during the Question Hour. We have completed that exercise. We now intend to concentrate on these 15 million hectares of degraded forest land which has got root-stock live so that re-dgeneration can take place with proper protection. With least investment, by putting not so much of money into plantation, we will be able to re-generated these forests. And it will be in a natural way which will have a natural bio-diversity and that will also ensure attaining the type of forest cover that we want. We will be coming out very shortly with a policy as to how to deal with degraded forest land which has no root-stock live below it. That is virtually like waste land though it is not classified as such. This is another question agitating the minds of several hon. Members including my good friend from Maharashtra, Mr. Sanjay Nirupam, as to how, on land which is defined as forest land under the Forest Conservation Act, there is not even a blade of grass lying and still you would like to call it forest land as a result of which you are not even allowing any type of development to take place. The reasons for this is this. The forest land as defined by the Forest Conservation Act and the forest cover that we have in the country are two different things. This, thanks to the judgment of the hon. Supreme Court, forest land now, as defined by the definition, as pronounced by the Supreme Court, is how we treat the forest land now. But the real forest is on a different type of forest land. Since we are going to complete this division, we will be able to deal with the issue of 'judpi jungle' in a very effective way. I am sure that not only the 'judpi jungle' in Maharashtra but the 'chotte bade jhad ka jungle' in Madhya Pradesh and issues like that, we will be able to deal with more effectively if we complete this exercise. And with the cooperation of the State Governments, we will be able to really

deal with the division of forest land where you should be concentrating upon rather than diffusing our attention on to various areas.

We feel-not because there are several women Members who have participated in the debate but because we feel very strongly ourselves-that our Forest Policy will not succeed unless the Forest Policy has a gender bias. Madam, it is a coincidence that you are occupying the Chair now. We have decided that all our Forest Policies will have a gender bias. We are going to formulate special schemes in which women will be involved. As you have seen in many other cases like the Literacy Mission, the Family Planning Programme, etc. unless you involve women into them, we do not really succeed. So, we have decided that all our forest programmes will have re-orientation and will have a gender bias, not just 33 per cent by the whole 100 per cent.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Thank you very much, Mr. Minister.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Another point that has been raised about forests is pertaining to forest fires. It was also related to another question raised by Dr. Murty as to why helicopters were brought. Madam, the helicopters were bought a long time back. I have not had the good fortune to take even one ride on them. If helicopters are not used for forest fire-fighting, we have found put that we have got a lot of conventional means to combat forest fires. There is a scheme like the Forest Lines or the Fire Lines which prevent the fire from engulfing the entire area, by adopting a very ingenious method. Just by doing that and also, wherever it is necessary, by even resorting to high-tech methods, we are going to take care of forest fires. Let me assure Members that it is receiving our utmost attention.

There is another interest phenomenon. Forest maintenance is the responsibility of the Union Government by virtue of the Forest Conservation Act. But the Union Government does not own even an inch of forest land anywhere in the country. So, though it is the responsibility of my Ministry, and as the hon. Member, Shri Ranganath Misra, has said that the future lies in my hand, I have no land to protect, I have no land to create a forest. But I have got a responsibility to bring about a 33 per cent forest cover. Though the entire forest land is owned by the State Governments, in some cases, by the Forest Development Corporations, the responsibility for increasing the forest cover lies squarely on the shoulders of my Ministry. Therefore, we involve the State Governments in each and every exercise. We have already started following the practice. We have already completed, as I have already stated, a round of negotiations and consultations with each one of these Ministers, including Chief Ministers from the North-Eastern States separately, and we have set up a separate cell for the first time in the Ministry to deal with the problems of the North-Eastern region. We realise that the North-Eastern States have a great contribution towards maintenance of forest cover in the country as well as rain forests cover in the country. The rain forests in the country are only in the North-east and on the Western Ghats, and unless we protect those forests, we are not going to succeed. As suggested by some hon. Members, we have already taken action and we are really working on it.

Anoher important aspect of our forest is the role of the tribals. As I have said sometime back the relationship between the tribals and forest is like mother and child. The tribals cannot survive without forest and forest also can be properly mothered by the tribals in a very effective way. We are also undertaking several programmes. Only two days back, I had invited the hon. Members of Parliament

belonging to the tribal areas, and I had a detailed discussion with them. I am happy to note that they also appreciated some of the initiatives that we have taken and I will be very happy to say that the new scheme that we have got—it is not something which is new in terms of proponents of it but in terms of new approach towards the problem—will be able to certainly look into the issue in a big way. Madam, the Joint Forest Management Programme is another programme which is related to forestry and tribals. We intend to intensify this programme in a big way. The percentage of share of the minor forest produce should be shared between the tribals and the Government. We are willing to even consider higher alloction in favour of the tribals. But we realise that forests can be protected by people alone and no uniform army, however strong or however trained it may be, can be successful in protecting any forests. What we really need is not an army to protect the forests. What we need, if at all, is peoples' army to protect forests. Now we have decided to start a scheme called 'Green Guards' in which these guards will not have to support or protect a social revolution but to protect a green revolution and these green guards, I think, will be able to help us in realising the objective that has been spelt out by many hon. Members, while speaking on the issue of forestry. There have been certain evolutions in forest areas. It will be nice to know that over a period of time, our forest policy has been evolved. When we thought about the forest policy for the first time, we said: "Agriculture should have primacy over forestry." In fact, we got rid of a lot of forest land to develop agriculture and that was, of course , many years back, even before we attained independence. But now we have realised that agriculture also is big threat to forests. So, this is how our perpetion changed over a period of time and it is my responsibility to react to this change. We have decided that now the forests will have a real upper hand. We are not going to make any compromise with it and we really deal with this problem in a big way.

Madam, we don't have a forest protection force in the counry. Many hon. Members have put a question as to what the Central Government is doing; We are just sitting in Delhi and not reacting when we receive several complaints about the violation of forests laws. Madam, my Ministry though does not have a police force, a protection force, which can go and protect the forests, we have essentially to really on the services of the State forest officers who are really motivated and who are really doing a good job. But we really need to strengthen it and we are also considering whether it is going to be feasible to create a Central Forest Protection Force, as has been suggested by many hon. Members, and we will like to act on that. If we can succeed in that, probably, we will be able to protect our forests in a very significant way and there will be an army for protection. Right now, though the Union Government has been entrusted with all types of responsibility, it does not have the wherewithals of dealing with the situation. Madam, there have been certain observations about the satellite imagery and how it is changing the forest cover. In fact, the satellite imagery system, as carried out by the Forest Survey of India, has now, beyond doubt, come out with a figure about the real forest cover in the country. We could never complete such an exercise in the past and this is probably for the first or the second time that we have been able to do this survey. The Forest Survey of India—it is a part of the Ministry—has done a commendable job and intends to cover more areas with more depth in the years to come so that we will be able to come out with better statistics, but let me assure the House that the statistics, as have been brought out, the revelations and the findings of the Forest Survey of India are really dependable and we really need not think that they are the ones

cannot be doubted. However, there are certain areas in whcih there is forest. As I told you, there is forest only when we see the records, but in reality there is no forest. The reason for that is that forests have been denuded over a period of time but the forest records have not been changed.

Madam, it is also said that the 1980 Forest Act has been a contributor towards development but it has also acted as an impediment for development as ever since the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 has come into being, has become a Central statute, the rate of diversion of forest land from forest to non-forest purposes is not more than 26,000 hectares per annum, whcih earlier was 1,50,000 hectares per annum, before the Act came into being. The hon. Member was feeling agitated that this Forest Conservation Act is responsible. Let me assure the House that this Act has worked in the interest of forest conservation though much better could have been done, and I really accept that blame also; my Ministry could have done much better than what it has actually done. But the factors contributing to it are also the same and we really need to get over this, and we have to look at forestry from a different perception, from a ddifferent outlook, and work on it in a different way.

Madam, there was another question which was asked by the hon. Membrs about the number of. Dr.Radhakrishna Murthy has asked this question as a first one. Madam, the Montreal Protocol on ozone layer is one of our concerns. Probably, the hon. Member was interested in knowing not only about the Convention of which we are a member, but also about the action that we are going to take. Madam, on ozone layer depletion, i.e. the Montreal Protocol, we have already received from the International Monetary Fund some amount of money, but we are not happy with that because we have to dispense with all CFC manufacturers in the next few years. There are two sets of industries which are likely to be affected. There is one set of industries which manufacture CFC. The other set of industries use CFC products as one of the components in thier end-products like the refrigerator industry, the air-condition industry. The hon. Member was probably interested to know as to how this section is going to be protected. We are taking great carein demanding a higher amount of moeny from the international agencies and also from the G-8 countries, the developed countries, so that our industries could be properly compensated, and the loss that they will suffer on account of closure of business or on account of shifting of activities will be duly compensated by the awards. They are taking care of that.

Madam, the other Convention, the Basal Convention on control of transbody movement of hazardous wastes has been enforced, and from 1.1.1998 there has been virtually a ban on dumping or import of such hazardous waste for recycling purposes. I think we have already taken up this matter with the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Commerce has issued the necessary notification. So, I can also feel that right now they are complying with this Convention and we are not adversely affected in any form by this.

Madam, the other Convention is the United Nations Timber Convention on Climate Change, 1992. Quite a few Members made a reference to this. This Convention is a Convention popularly known as Convention on Climate Change which essentially puts responsibility on Annex I countries, it means the countries which have signed the Convention in the Annex I are essentially the countries which are developed countries. On them lies the responsibility to reduce gas emission levels in a particular fashion by the next eight years time. There is no such responsibility on our country though we have raised serious reservations, including in Kyuoto Protocol, As Dr. Alagh wanted. Even though we didn't sign the Kyuoto Protocol, we have made very serious observations. The next round

will be in the Buenos Aires where we intend to raise these issues once again.

Madam, the Convention to combat generification is another one which does not put any responsibility on us. The Convention of Biological Diversities is one major convention of which India has been a party.

Madam, I intend to introduce a Bill in the next session on biological diversity. India will be the first country who would have a legislation of this type to protect the rights of the owners of indigenous biological reserves. It will be very beneficial if a bill of this kind is passed. I intend to consult a large number of people. We have written to all the Chief Ministers, academicians, NGOs and the people who are working in this area to elicit their opinion. Once we pass this legislation, we will be working in a different way. These are some major Conventions of which we are a member. Of course, there are other conventions of which we are a member for a long time. I don't want to take much time of the House to deal with this issue.

Some hon. Members, including our learned Member from Himachal Pradesh, have asked, "Why have you not spent the budgeted amount which was provided by Parliament" They also pointed out that, on the one hand, the Ministry asked for more funds and, on the other hand, the amount could not be spent and that it shows an apparent contradiction. There are some reasons for that. There was a budgetary cut, some time, in the last year. Then a supplementary demand was put before the Ministry which could not be approved on time. That is also one of the reasons. But this year we intend to use whatever has been budgeted for. If this House approves more money — the Finance Minister is here — if he decides to allocate more money, I can assure the House that we will spend all that money.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We can recommend that. We will request the Finance Minister that for your excellent performance he should give you a little more money.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Then another concern has been expressed about the impact of environment degradation on human lives. Recently, a Seminar was organised by CAC of which Dr. Anil Aggarawal was the Chairman. The media was very kind to the event and covered it very extensively. That is why there is significant improvement in the awareness on this issue. I had the good fortune of attending this Seminar. In the Seminar itself I announced that we take serious note of the observations and the conclusion that was drawn. Therefore, we have already constituted a Committee to take such actions that may be necessary. To integrate those actions and those recommendations into the sphere of all other Ministries which could be concerned with it, we have set up a Committee of Secretaries to take action on that. One important thing which was also one of the observations in the Seminar is, pesticides are contributing a great deal towards deterioration of public health. If science and technology advancement about which we always talk, is going to be a source or a cause of such degradation in times to come, we will have to follow and look at science and technology in a different way and ensure that human lives become our prime concern and also while adopting certain technological innovations, we should be a little careful.

Therefore, we have conducted a study. I am sure, we will be able to take numerous steps which are necessary.

Then air pollution is another area on which quite a few hon. Members have spoken. I would like to inform the House that from 1.4.2000 the automobile engines which would be manufactured, would conform to the type of stipulation that the House wants. All the vehicles in Delhi and in some other cities are now going to use clean fuel. Fuel is one of the biggest contributors towards pollution. In fact, in Delhi 70 per cent of air pollution

is due to vehicular pollution. Vehicular pollution can be arrested by improving the quality of fuel as well as the type of engines that we use. We intend to improve both the things. We intend to start a new programme through the Central Pollution Control Board of not only just affixing Pollution-Under-Check stickers but also some other programmes by which all the vehicles will be tested very vigorously and we will be able to take some steps in this direction.

Then another point was raised about air pollution in Agra. We have taken several steps. Despite that, air pollution in Agra has not been reduced to the extend to which it should have been. This year Rs. 50 crores have been earmarked for Agra. Once the Finance Bill is passed, we intend to use this money as per the Agra Action Plan which has been prepared. Last year, the money was not spent. But I would like to assure the House that this year we will definitely spend the money. Recently, we have approved a power project in Jawar town. While approving the project one of the conditions which my Ministry has put is this.

The entire power, of course not to the extent to which Agra needs it, will be provided from that project so that we will be able to discontinue all the DG sets. if we can discontinue all the DG sets, then the noise pollution can be reduced. We will also contain the other contributors of pollution there.

Madam, on industrial pollution side, several Members have raised several points. We have set up quite a few effluent treatment plants. There are at least 71 plants. Quite a few of them are under implementation and some of them have been completed. We have received the World Bank loan and there is some amount of subsidy for them. The pattern is that the State Government will contribute 25 per cent, the Union Government's contribution will be 25 per cent, 25 per cent loan component will be there and 25 per cent will have to be contributed by the industry. Right now the entire amount has been spent and no money is available. But if we receive some more projects, we will try to make extra efforts considering the magnitude of the problem. Shri Alagh and others suggested that we should undertake more such programmes. We hope that we will be able to do so. The industrial pollution is perceived as a punishable offence. We prescribe certain emission standards and certain standards for pollution control. If there are violated, industries are penalised. But those who are really resorting to emission control norms and have environmental concern have also found out that it makes good business sense to be environment-friendly. I would appeal to all the industries that they follow all the Environment Protection Laws so as to be economically viable as well as be competitive in their business.

Madam, water is another area on which several Members have spoken. I really share the concern. I don't intend to defend our action in saying that what we have done is the best. We can do much better. Let me tell the House that like the Ganga Action Plan, we intend to have another programme. We intend to make a new initiative, namely, GATT-2. We will take into consideration the concerns which have been expressed and all the complaints which we have received. I hope that we will be able to work in a better way.

Madam, another area on which Mr. Murthy and many other hon. Members have spoken is pertaining to ocean. Incidentally, this is the International Year of Ocean. We have always neglected ocean in a big way. In fact, ocean has got such a capacity that whatever has been transported into the ocean for so many years is cleansed by the inherent system of cleaning. Now oceans have also decided that they should go no strike and they have really declared so! So, oceans are also showing signs of stress now. It is a very serious problem. I think that for the first time My Ministry has undertaken a

programme called 'Project Turtle'. All through, we had been working on several initiatives on wildlife. But we never took initiatives on marine life. We have undertaken the 'project Turtle' like the 'Project Tiger'. If a tiger is alive, it shows that the entire foodchain is intact which, in turn, means that the entire forest life is in a good shape. Likewise, if a turtle is alive in an ocean, it shows that the entire foodchain is alive, that the existence of turtle demostrates it. We have undertaken this project. We will be able to work on that in a proper way.

Madam, one of the issues which my good friend, Mr. John Fernandes, has also mentioned about is the issue pertaining to mangroves. I am happy that this aspect has received the kind of attention it deserves as it has been mentioned by many of the hon. Members. In a way we have neglected it as well, and we have not acted in a way we should have. But I assure this House that this year we will give special attention to the development of mangroves. We will go about it in the manner in which it has been demanded by several Members. Although different complaints have been made by Mr. John Fernandes, these would definitely receive our attention. But I cannot reply just now because I could not leave the House in between as the Chair was always watching that I was here.

Madam, mining is another issue which has been discussed. It was understood that rich mineral deposits are always available beneath the richest forests of our country. So, going by it logically, if you want to exploit all our mineral resources, we will have to probably get rid of the entire forest in the country. This is the right time that we have a policy to see how best we can exploit our mineral deposits at the same time keeping our forest cover intact. We will make a study to find out how this can be ensured. I share the concerns expressed by Mr. Fernandes. But we are directing them to take remedial steps not only in your State but also all over the country.

Madam, urban problems, including the problem of hospital waste, have been mentioned by many Members. I have already approved it. Next week we are coming out with a notification on the disposal of hospital waste and medical waste. This will definitely take care of the problems that you have raised. This notification is going to come in the next ten days or so. The incinerators that you have proposed are also a part of that. In fact, it is a very exhaustive and elaborate notification and we are going to effectively deal with this problem for the first time.

श्री रामजीलाल: मैडम, मेरा रिप्लाइ नहीं आया। सब ने कहा, लेकिन मैंने नहीं कहा। मैडम, दो साल में 5,482 किलोमीटर के जंगलात खत्म हुए जबकि एक साल में आप पौने दस लाख किलोमीटर क्षेत्र में जंगलात लगाते हैं। इस का रिप्लाइ नहीं आया। सब मेंबर्स ने कहा, लेकिन मैंने कुछ नहीं कहा। मैडम, मेरे सवाल का रिप्लाइ आना चाहिए। मंत्री जी, आप ने कहा कि 5482 किलोमीटर जंगलात वर्ष 1995-96 में खत्म हो गए और पौने दस लाख किलोमीटर क्षेत्र में आप जंगलात एक साल में लगाते हैं। तो कहां गए आप के जंगलात? इस के बारे में आप का रिप्लाइ नहीं है। सब मेंबरों ने कहा, लेकिन मैंने कुछ नहीं कहा।

SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: I just wanted to have one clarification. Will these incinerators be put in District Hospitals also or is it going to be taken up only in big cities at the moment?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: In fact, this will be in all the hospitals.

मैडम, आप ने जो सवाल उठाया है और शायद जिस तरह से मैं समझ पाया हूं, यह नेशनल इकॉलोजिकल बोर्ड के बारे में आप ने सवाल रखा है। मैडम, हम जो पूंजी देते हैं, वह पूरे राज्य को देते हैं और उस राज्य को प्लांटेशन करना होता है। आप ने जो कहा है तो हमने जो स्टेटिस्टिक्स दी हुई है, वह राज्य से आई हुई स्टेटिस्टिक्स है और जो आप कहना चाहते हैं, जो सूचित आप कर रहे हैं, वह सूचित करने में मैं आप को काउंटर नहीं करना चाहता हूं। आप जो सूचित कर रहे हैं, वह आप का कनक्लूजन है, मैं उस को रिस्पेक्ट करता हूं।

उपसाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): लगता है कि आपने सारे प्रश्नों का जवाब दे दिया है। अब आपके पास कुछ बचा नहीं है।

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: नहीं, नहीं, मैडम, है। जैसा यहां आपने इस्यू उठाया था, उसके पहले कि वाइल्ड लाइफ के बारे में कहूं, एक बात कहना चाहूंगा कि जो पोचिंग देश में हो रही है, उसके बारे में काफी लोग चिन्तित हैं। हमारे देश की जो टाइगर पापुलेशन है, वह करीबन 3500 से 4000 के बीच आज है। देश में हर साल हजार के करीबन पोचिंग के इंसीडेंस होते हैं, जिसमें करीबन सौ टाइगर मारे जाते हैं। यह जो टाइगर मारे जाते हैं, उसकी रियली वजह क्या है, यह भी हमें देखना जरूरी है। उसके जो इकोनोमिक लिंकेज है, उसको यदि हम तोड़ सकते हैं तो शायद इस प्रोब्लम को हम बहुत आसानी से हल कर सकते हैं। इसलिए हम हमेशा यह कोशिश करते हैं कि जो भी टाइगर स्किन या ऐसे कोई रेयर स्पिसीस की स्किन मिलती है तो उसको बेचने के बजाय जलाया जाए। अगर उसको इकोनोमिक लिंकेज से तोड़ सकेंगे तो शायद इस समस्या का हल हम कर पाएंगे।

मैडम, बीच में हमने पढ़ा कि जापान में एक ऐसा सीरियल दिखाया गया टेलीविजन पर टाइगर को लेकर, कि उससे एक अच्छी डेलिकेसी कैसे बनाई जाती है। हमने जब पढ़ा तो हम काफी चिन्तित हुए और इसलिए हमने उस मंत्रालय को भी सूचित किया है कि शीघ्र इस पर कुछ एक्शन लिया जाए। यह जो पोचिंग का इस्यू है, यह इकोनोमिक एक्टिविटी से रिलेटेड है, इसलिए हम उसको डील करें, लेकिन सिर्फ आर्मी को वहां लाकर काम नहीं होगा। हमारे जो 23 फौरेस्ट टाइगर रिजर्व हैं, उसमें से 7 टाइगर रिजर्व आज इनसर्जेन्सी के हाथ में हैं यानि इसमें से 7 टाइगर रिजर्व में इनसर्जेन्सी है। इसलिए उसको डील करने के लिए भी हमने होम मिनिस्ट्री को सूचित किया है और मैं मानता हूं कि इसमें हम कुछ कर पाएंगे।

मैडम, लीगल जो रेगुलेशन है, उसके बारे में कई लीगों ने सवाल उठाए थे। हमारी आनरेबिल मैम्बर शबाना आजमी ने भी कोस्टल रेगुलेशन जोन के बारे में कुछ कहा था और शायद उनके साथ उनके सामने जो आनरेबिल मैम्बर बैठे थे वह यह कहना चाहते थे कि कोस्टल रेगुलेशन जोन को हटाना चाहिए और आप कह रहे थे कि उसे नहीं हटाना चाहिए। तो यही इस्यू है कि जो डिफरेन्स परसेप्शन हैं, मैं समझता हूं, जब दोनों में एग्रीमेंट हो जाएगा तो गवर्नमेंट को उसको हल करने में भी आसानी होगी। लेकिन, मैडम, मैं यह जरूर कहना चाहूंगा कि.....

It is not our intention to scrap the CRZ. I have never said that in any forum or to any audience, but what could happen is, looking at CRZ as a dynamic position, pointed out by the hon. Member, there is a relationship between fishermen and ocean which is inseparable. The fishermen who have to live on the coastal line must realise and recognise their inherent right of staying there, and that is why we must take that into consideration. But, let me assure and let me dispel all apprehensions that you may have in your mind that we don't intend to scrap CRZ to benefit a section of society which you think doesn't deserve to be helped. We don't intend to do that at all. In fact, the CRZ will stay, and CRZ is one of the areas which protects our coast line. I have already talked about it a little earlier.

Madam, several other issues have been raised by the hon. Members. I know that you have been looking at me. If you permit I can answer. I did not answer all the questions, though I have got replies ready. But, if you feel that the Finance Minister is waiting, I would stop here. If I talk for a longer time, probably, he will curtail my Budget which has already been provided for. I request him to kindly increase the share also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Thank you very much. You covered all the points raised by the hon. Members.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Madam, the hon. Minister could not answer about Delhi. Madam, I have raised a point that there are three thermal power plants in trans-Yamuna area. These power plants are emitting smoke equal to ten thousand pollution units. This could be avoided by having converters to convert smoke into dry ash. It is a cheap technology. Why do you not see that this is implemented by the Government because the Government itself is a polluter?

लेकिन जो पूंजी खर्च होती है, वह राज्य सरकार से होती है। उस के लिए वर्ष 1995-96 में जो खर्चा हुआ था, उस के बारे में आप ने जो सवाल उठाया है, वह मैंने लिखा हुआ है। इस को हम देख लेंगे और अभी आपका जो परसेप्शन है, उस को मैं काउंटर नहीं करना चाहता हूं।

Another problem in the urban areas is the disposal of solid waste that is generated in the country. We are able to collect only a part of it, what to talk of treating it. Although essentially it is a problem again of municipal corporations and municipal councils, we have also decided to take a little interest at the policy level. I intend to set up a cell in my Ministry to deal with this problem. And we intend to solve this problem, not only the problem pertaining to solid waste but also water which is not treated and which is let out into the rivers. We intend to take up that also.

The other issue that has been raised is about fly-ash. As you know, if the hon. Finance Minister provides appropriate funds, we intend to add 57,000 MW of power in the 9th Five Year Plan, which was the projection that was made by Shri Alagh, when he was the Minister of Planning. In fact, the Planning Commission itself has projected in its Approach Paper that it intends to add 10,000 MW of power every year in the next fifteen years. If we really want to attain those targets, the feed-stock that we would be using is essentially going to be the fossil fuels only, and that means, coal, because we have it in abundance in our country. The use of coal is inevitable and the problem of fly-ash is going to be a reality. So, my Ministry has already issued a notification for reduction of fly-ash content to 32%. We have also stipulated how that fly-ash has to be disposed, how it is the responsibility of individual power-plants, how they have to provide for the place, how bricks and cement, which can be made from fly-ash, could be made.

The notification has been issued and we are working on that.

Another point which my hon. friend wanted to know was about neclear power stations. We intend to deal with nuclear problems like Chernobyl, if at all they occur. First of all, I wish that it never happens. But if at all it happens, then we should be prepared. Although we have never cleared any nuclear project for the last so many years, if we are required to clear a nuclear project, we have set guidelines on how a nuclear project should be cleared, taking into consideration the safety aspect also, so that the Ministry and the Atomic Energy Commission take care of these in order to see that reasonable safety is assured and that we don't have to worry about it beyond a point.

[7 P.M.]

As far as pollution in Delhi is concerned, we have already prepared an action plan and we intend to deal with it in a very effective way.

Madam, an issue about plastic was raised. When we deal with plastic and talk about plastic, what we really are talking about, is various forms of plastic. Madam, we use plastic for a variety of reasons. You take a car. A large portion of car components are made of plastic. We also use many electronic gadgets which are made of plastic. So, it is inconceivable to think that we can ban plastic completely. But, what we have to ensure is that plastic does not contribute to deterioration of human health, and that is what we intend to do, But, if at all we want to ban plastic and for example introduce paper as an alternative, then we would need a large quantity of paper for which we will have to cut a large number of trees. This is another issue that we must keep in mind. Though I am really concerned with this issue, we don't intend to act in a haste. We have already set up a commission in the Ministry to draw an action plan to deal with plastic and plastic bags which are really a cause of several problems. We intend to take stern action on this in a very, very short time.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: With your permission I will make a small point which I forget. Madam, many Members have suggested that polluters must pay. I definitely agree with that. But, we also feel that potential polluters also must pay now. The new activity which has started and which is likely to cause pollution, we intend to levy a cess on them too. We intend to create an environmental fund. If environment fund can become a reality, many of the concerns raised by the Members, we will be able to meet. Since our Finance Minister is also environmentally concerned, chaired a session of the cess meet. I am sure, he will definitely look into this. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): No more. I have to take up the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

THE NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1998

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Madam, concerned by the rising trend in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances which pose a serious threat to the health and welfare of human beings and recognising the need to strengthen national and international efforts towards combating the problem effectively, the Community of Nations concluded the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the year 1988. India is a party to this Convention. Most of the obligations arising out of the said convention were taken care of by an amendment made to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 in the year 1989. One of the objectives of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1998 is to take care of further obligations arising under the said Convention which could not be included in the amendment to the Act made in the year 1989. The obligations under the said Convention so included in the Bill now are, establishing jurisdiction over offences committed by citizens of India outside India, and by all persons on ships and air-crafts registered in India, conferment of legal authority to carry out 'Controlled Delivery', an investigative technique aimed at bringing to book all those who are involved in drug offences, criminalisation of certain activities relating to laundering of tainted proceeds derived from drug offences etc.

Our experience of a little over a decade in implementing the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, various court rulings on the subject and the observations of the National Human Rights Commission had brought to the fore certain deficiencies in the Act which hamper our action against drug traffickers. The deficiencies noticed are lack of power to seize or freeze the illegally acquired property of offenders as soon as they are charged with an offence under the Act, to empower officers of the armed forces and paramilitary forces other than BSF to take action under the Act, absence of search and seizure powers under the Act in respect of precursors and essential chemicals which are used in the illegal manufacture of drugs and in respect of financial investigation for tracing, seizing and forfeiting illegally acquired property of drug offenders and absence of power with departmental officers to file appeals against the order of the Competent Authority in the matter of tracing, seizing and forfeiting of illegally acquired property of drug offenders etc. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1998 seeks to strengthen the Act by way of removing the deficiencies noticed so far.

On the other hand, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act prescribed for most of the offences a uniform sentence of minimum 10 years imprisonment which may extend up to 20